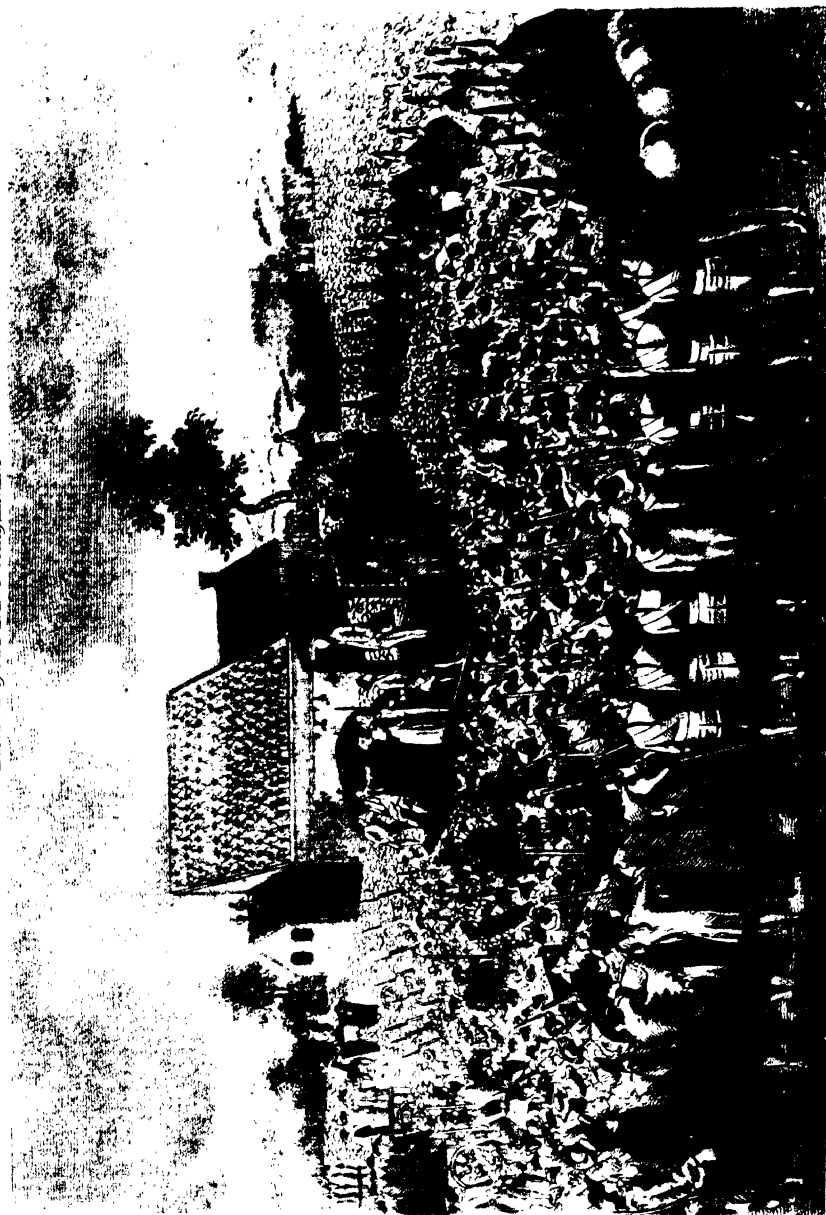


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**THE COMPLETE NEWGATE
CALENDAR**

Published by the New York Society, London



THE COMPLETE NEWGATE CALENDAR

BEING

CAPTAIN CHARLES JOHNSON'S *General History of the Lives and Adventures of the Most Famous Highwaymen, Murderers, Street-Robbers and Account of the Voyages and Plunders of the Most Notorious Pyrates*, 1734; CAPTAIN ALEXANDER SMITH'S *Compleat History of the Lives and Robberies of the Most Notorious Highwaymen, Foot-Pads, Shop-Lifts and Cheats*, 1719; *The Tyburn Chronicle*, 1768; *The Malefactors' Register*, 1796; GEORGE BORROW'S *Celebrated Trials*, 1825; *The Newgate Calendar*, by ANDREW KNAPP AND WILLIAM BALDWIN, 1826; CAMDEN PELHAM'S *Chronicles of Crime*, 1841; etc.

COLLATED AND EDITED WITH AN APPENDIX

BY

G. T. CROOK

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THE COMPLETE NEWGATE CALENDAR

JACK SHEPPARD

*A Daring Housebreaker, who made Ingenious Escapes from
Prison and even tried to foil his Executioner at
Tyburn on 16th of November, 1724*

ALTHOUGH only in the twenty-third year of his age when he was executed at Tyburn, on the 16th of November, 1724, Jack Sheppard had become so notorious as a housebreaker and prison-breaker that his exploits were the talk of all ranks of society. A great warrior could not have received greater attention than this famous criminal. Books and pamphlets were written about him; a pantomime at Drury Lane, called *Harlequin Sheppard*, was based on the story of his adventures, and so was a three-act farce, called *The Prison-Breaker*. Dozens of songs and glees referred to his prowess, and clergymen preached sermons about him. Sir James Thornhill, the celebrated painter who decorated the dome of St Paul's Cathedral, painted his portrait, from which engravings in mezzotinto were made. On this subject a poet, whose name is not given, wrote the following lines :—

“ Thornhill, 'tis thine to gild with fame
The obscure, and raise the humble name ;
To make the form elude the grave,
And Sheppard from oblivion save.

Though life in vain the wretch implores,
An exile on the farthest shores,
Thy pencil brings a kind reprieve,
And bids the dying robber live.

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This piece to latest time shall stand,
And show the wonders of thy hand :
Thus former masters graced their name,
And gave egregious robbers fame.

Apelles Alexander drew,
Cæsar is to Aurelius due ;
Cromwell in Lely's works doth shine,
And Sheppard, Thornhill, lives in thine."

John Sheppard was born in Spitalfields in the year 1702. His father, who was a carpenter, bore the character of an honest man ; yet he had another son, named Thomas, who, as well as Jack, turned out a thief. The father dying while the boys were very young, they were left to the care of the mother, who placed Jack at a school in Bishopsgate Street, where he remained two years, and was then put apprentice to a carpenter. He behaved with decency in this place for about four years, when, frequenting the Black Lion ale-house, in Drury Lane, he became acquainted with some abandoned women, among whom the principal was Elizabeth Lyon, otherwise called "Edgworth Bess," from the town of Edgworth, where she was born.

While he continued to work as a carpenter, he often committed robberies in the houses where he was employed, stealing tankards, spoons and other articles, which he carried to Edgworth Bess ; but not being suspected of having committed these robberies, he at length resolved to commence housebreaking. Exclusive of Edgworth Bess, he was acquainted with a woman named Maggot, who persuaded him to rob the house of Mr Bains, a piece-broker in White Horse Yard ; and Jack, having brought away a piece of fustian from thence (which he deposited in his trunk), went afterwards at midnight, and taking the bars out of the cellar window entered, and stole goods and money to the amount of twenty-two pounds, which he carried to Maggot.

As Sheppard did not go home that night, nor the following day, his master suspected that he had made bad

JACK SHEPPARD

connections, and searching his trunk found the piece of fustian that had been stolen ; but Sheppard, hearing of this, broke open his master's house in the night and carried off the fustian, lest it should be brought in evidence against him.

Sheppard's master sending intelligence to Mr Bains of what had happened, the latter looked over his goods and, missing such a piece of fustian as had been described to him, suspected that Sheppard must have been the robber, and determined to have him taken into custody ; but Jack, hearing of the affair, went to him and threatened a prosecution for scandal, alleging that he had received the piece of fustian from his mother, who bought it for him in Spital-fields. The mother, with a view to screen her son, declared that what he had asserted was true, though she could not point out the place where she had made the purchase. Though this story was not credited, Mr Bains did not take any further steps in the affair.

Sheppard's master seemed willing to think well of him, and he remained some time longer in the family ; but after associating himself with the worst of company, and frequently staying out the whole night, his master and he quarrelled, and the headstrong youth totally absconded in the last year of his apprenticeship and became connected with a set of villains of Jonathan Wild's gang.

Jack now worked as a journeyman carpenter, with a view to the easier commission of robbery ; and being employed to assist in repairing the house of a gentleman in Mayfair he took an opportunity of carrying off a sum of money, a quantity of plate, some gold rings and four suits of clothes.

Not long after this Edgworth Bess was apprehended and lodged in the roundhouse of the parish of St Giles's, where Sheppard went to visit her, and the beadle refusing to admit him he knocked him down, broke open the door, and carried her off in triumph—an exploit which acquired him a high degree of credit with the women of abandoned character.

In the month of August, 1723, Thomas Sheppard, the brother of Jack, was indicted at the Old Bailey for two

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petty offences, and being convicted was burned in the hand. Soon after his discharge he prevailed on Jack to lend him forty shillings and take him as a partner in his robberies. The first act they committed in concert was the robbing of a public-house in Southwark, whence they carried off some money and wearing apparel ; but Jack permitted his brother to reap the whole advantage of this booty.

Not long after this the brothers, in conjunction with Edgworth Bess, broke open the shop of Mrs Cook, a linen-draper in Clare Market, and carried off goods to the value of fifty-five pounds ; and in less than a fortnight afterwards stole some articles from the house of Mr Phillips, in Drury Lane.

Tom Sheppard, going to sell some of the goods stolen at Mrs Cook's, was apprehended and committed to Newgate, when, in the hope of being admitted an evidence, he impeached his brother and Edgworth Bess ; but they were sought for in vain.

At length James Sykes—otherwise called “ Hell and Fury ”—one of Sheppard's companions, meeting with him in St Giles's, enticed him into a public-house, in the hope of receiving a reward for apprehending him ; and, while they were drinking, Sykes sent for a constable, who took Jack into custody, and carried him before a magistrate, who, after a short examination, sent him to St Giles's Roundhouse ; but he broke through the roof of that place and made his escape in the night.

Within a short time after this, as Sheppard and an associate named Benson were crossing Leicester Fields, the latter endeavoured to pick a gentleman's pocket of his watch, but, failing in the attempt, the gentleman called out : “ A pickpocket ! ”—on which Sheppard was taken and lodged in St Ann's Roundhouse, where he was visited by Edgworth Bess, who was detained on suspicion of being one of his accomplices.

On the following day they were carried before a magistrate, and, some persons appearing who charged them with felonies, they were committed to New Prison ; and

JACK SHEPPARD

as they passed for husband and wife they were permitted to lodge together in a room known by the name of Newgate Ward.

Sheppard being visited by several of his acquaintances, some of them furnished him with implements to make his escape, and early in the morning, a few days after his commitment, he filed off his fetters and, having made a hole in the wall, he took an iron bar and a wooden one out of the window; but as the height from which he was to descend was twenty-five feet he tied a blanket and sheet together, and, making one of them fast to a bar in the window, Edgworth Bess first descended, and Jack followed her.

Having reached the yard, they had still a wall of twenty-two feet high to scale; but climbing up by the locks and bolts of the great gate, they got quite out of the prison, and effected a perfect escape.

Sheppard's fame was greatly celebrated among the lower order of people by this exploit; and the thieves of St Giles's courted his company. Among the rest, one Charles Grace, a cooper, begged that he would take him as an associate in his robberies, alleging as a reason for this request that the girl he kept was so extravagant that he could not support her on the profits of his own thefts. Sheppard did not hesitate to make this new connection; but at the same time said that he did not admit of the partnership with a view to any advantage to himself, but that Grace might reap the profits of their depredations.

Sheppard and Grace making acquaintance with Anthony Lamb, an apprentice to a mathematical instrument-maker, near St Clement's Church, it was agreed to rob a gentleman who lodged with Lamb's master, and at two o'clock in the morning Lamb let in the other villains, who stole money and effects to a large amount. They put the door open, and Lamb went to bed to prevent suspicion; but notwithstanding this his master did suspect him, and had him taken into custody, when he confessed the whole affair before a magistrate, and being committed to Newgate he was tried, convicted, and received sentence to be transported.

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On the same day Thomas Sheppard (the brother of Jack) was indicted for breaking open the dwelling-house of Mary Cook and stealing her goods; and, being convicted, was sentenced to transportation.

Jack Sheppard not being in custody, he and "Blueskin," another notorious thief, who was executed a few days before Sheppard met his fate, committed a number of daring robberies, and sometimes disposed of the stolen goods to William Field. Jack used to say that Field wanted courage to commit a robbery, though he was as great a villain as ever existed.

Sheppard and "Blueskin" hired a stable near the Horse Ferry, Westminster, in which they deposited their stolen goods till they could dispose of them to the best advantage, and in this place they put the woollen cloth which was stolen from Mr Kneebone; for Sheppard was concerned in this robbery, and at the sessions held at the Old Bailey, in August, 1724, he was indicted for several offences, and among the rest for breaking and entering the house of William Kneebone and stealing one hundred and eight yards of woollen cloth and other articles; and, being capitally convicted, received sentence of death.

We must now go back to observe that Sheppard and "Blueskin" had applied to Field to look at these goods and procure a customer for them, and he promised to do so; nor was he worse than his word, for in the night he broke open their warehouses and stole the ill-gotten property, and then gave information against them to Jonathan Wild, in consequence of which they were apprehended.

On Monday, the 30th of August, 1724, a warrant was sent to Newgate for the execution of Sheppard, with other convicts under sentence of death.

It is proper to observe that in the old jail of Newgate there was within the lodge a hatch, with large iron spikes, which hatch opened into a dark passage, whence there were a few steps into the condemned hold. The prisoners being permitted to come down to the hatch to speak with their friends, Sheppard, having been supplied with instruments,

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took an opportunity of cutting one of the spikes in such a manner that it might be easily broken off.

On the evening of the above-mentioned 30th of August, two women of Sheppard's acquaintance going to visit him, he broke off the spike and, thrusting his head and shoulders through the space, the women pulled him down, and he effected his escape, notwithstanding some of the keepers were at that time drinking at the other end of the lodge.

On the day after his escape he went to a public-house in Spitalfields, whence he sent for an old acquaintance, one Page, a butcher in Clare Market, and advised with him how to render his escape effectual for his future preservation. After deliberating on the matter they agreed to go to Warnden, in Northamptonshire, where Page had some relations; and they had no sooner resolved than they made the journey: but Page's relations treating him with indifference, they returned to London, after being absent only about a week.

On the night after their return, as they were walking up Fleet Street together, they saw a watchmaker's shop open, and only a boy attending. Having passed the shop, they turned back, and Sheppard, driving his hand through the window, stole three watches, with which they made their escape.

Some of Sheppard's old acquaintances informing him that strict search was being made for him, he and Page retired to Finchley, in the hope of lying there concealed till the diligence of the jail-keepers should relax; but the keepers of Newgate, having intelligence of their retreat, took Sheppard into custody and conveyed him to his old lodgings.

Such steps were now taken as were thought would be effectual to prevent his future escape. He was put into a strong-room called the "Castle," handcuffed, loaded with a heavy pair of irons, and chained to a staple fixed in the floor. The curiosity of the public being greatly excited by his former escape, he was visited by great numbers of people of all ranks, and scarce anyone left him without making him a present in money, though he would have more gladly

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received a file, a hammer, or a chisel ; but the utmost care was taken that none of his visitors should furnish him with such implements.

Notwithstanding this disadvantageous situation, Sheppard was continually employing his thoughts on the means of another escape. On the 14th of October the sessions began at the Old Bailey, and, the keepers being much engaged in attending the court, he thought they would have little time to visit him, and therefore the present juncture would be the most favourable to carry his plan into execution.

About two o'clock on the afternoon of the following day one of the keepers carried him his dinner, and having carefully examined his irons, and found them fast, he left him for the day. Some days before this Jack had found a small nail in the room, with which he could, at pleasure, unlock the padlock that went from the chain to the staple in the floor ; and in his own account of this transaction he says that he was frequently about the room, and had several times slept on the barracks when the keepers imagined he had not been out of his chair.

The keeper had not left him more than an hour when he began his operations. He first took off his handcuffs and then opened the padlock that fastened the chain to the staple. He next, by mere strength, twisted asunder a small link of the chain between his legs, and then drawing up his fetters as high as he could he made them fast with his garters.

He then attempted to get up the chimney, but had not advanced far before he was stopped by an iron bar that went across it ; on which he descended, and with a piece of his broken chain picked out the mortar, and moving a small stone or two, about six feet from the floor, he got out the iron bar, which was three feet long and an inch square, and proved very serviceable to him in his future proceedings.

He in a short time made such a breach as to enable him to get into the red room over the " Castle " ; and here he found a large nail, which he made use of in his further operations. It was seven years since the door of this red room had been

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opened, but Sheppard wrenched off the lock in less than seven minutes, and got into the passage leading to the chapel. In this place he found a door which was bolted on the opposite side, but making a hole through the wall he pushed the bolt back, and opened the door.

Arriving at the door of the chapel, he broke off one of the iron spikes, and keeping this for his further use got into an entry between the chapel and the lower leads. The door of this entry was remarkably strong, and fastened with a large lock, and, night coming on, Sheppard was obliged to work in the dark. Notwithstanding this disadvantage he in half-an-hour forced open the box of the lock and opened the door; but this led him to another room still more difficult, for it was barred and bolted as well as locked; however he wrenched the fillet from the main post of the door, and the box and staples came off with it.

It was now eight o'clock, and Sheppard found no further obstruction to his proceedings, for he had only one other door to open, which, being bolted on the inside, was opened without difficulty, and he got over a wall to the upper leads.

His next consideration was how he should descend with the greatest safety. Accordingly he found that the most convenient place for him to alight on would be the turner's house adjoining to Newgate, but as it would have been very dangerous to have jumped to such a depth he went back for the blanket with which he used to cover himself when he slept in the "Castle," and endeavoured to fasten his stocking to the blanket to ease his descent; but not being able to do so, he was compelled to use the blanket alone; wherefore he made it fast to the wall of Newgate with the spike that he took out of the chapel and, sliding down, dropped on the turner's leads just as the clock was striking nine. It happened that the door of the garret next the turner's leads was open, on which he stole softly down two pair of stairs, and heard some company talking in a room. His irons clinking, a woman cried, "What noise is that?" and a man answered, "Perhaps the dog or cat."

Sheppard, who was exceedingly fatigued, returned to the

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garret and lay down for more than two hours ; after which he crept down once more as far as the room where the company were, when he heard a gentleman taking leave of the family, and saw the maid light him downstairs. As soon as the maid returned he resolved to venture all hazards, but in stealing down the stairs he stumbled against a chamber door ; but instantly recovering himself, he got into the street.

By this time it was after twelve o'clock, and passing by the watch-house of St Sepulchre he bid the watchman good-morrow ; then going up Holborn he turned down Gray's Inn Lane, and about two in the morning got into the fields near Tottenham Court, where he took shelter in a place that had been a cowhouse, and slept soundly about three hours. His fetters being still on, his legs were greatly bruised and swelled, and he dreaded the approach of daylight, lest he should be discovered. He had now above forty shillings in his possession, but was afraid to send to any person for assistance.

At seven in the morning it began to rain hard, and continued to do so all day, so that no person appeared in the fields ; and during this melancholy day he would, to use his own expression, have given his right hand for "a hammer, a chisel and a punch." Night coming on, and being pressed by hunger, he ventured to a chandler's little shop in Tottenham Court Road, where he got a supply of bread and cheese, small-beer and some other necessities, hiding his irons with a long greatcoat. He asked the woman of the house for a hammer, but she had no such utensil ; on which he retired to the cowhouse, where he slept that night, and remained all the next day.

At night he went again to the chandler's shop, supplied himself with provisions, and returned to his hiding-place. At six the next morning, which was Sunday, he began to beat the basils of his fetters with a stone, in order to bring them to an oval form, to slip his heels through. In the afternoon the master of the cowhouse, coming thither, and seeing his irons, said : "For God's sake, who are you?"

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Sheppard said he was an unfortunate young fellow who, having had a bastard child sworn to him and not being able to give security to the parish for its support, had been sent to Bridewell, from whence he had made his escape. The man said that if that was all it did not much signify ; but he did not care how soon he was gone, for he did not like his looks.

Soon after he was gone Sheppard saw a journeyman shoemaker, to whom he told the same story of the bastard child, and offered him twenty shillings if he would procure a smith's hammer and a punch. The poor man, tempted by the reward, procured them accordingly, and assisted him in getting rid of his irons, which work was completed by five o'clock in the evening.

When night came on, our adventurer tied a handkerchief about his head, tore his woollen cap in several places, and likewise tore his coat and stockings, so as to have the appearance of a beggar ; and in this condition he went to a cellar near Charing Cross, where he supped on roast veal and listened to the conversation of the company, all of whom were talking of the escape of Sheppard.

On the Monday he sheltered himself at a public-house of little trade in Rupert Street, and conversing with the landlady about Sheppard told her it was impossible for him to get out of the kingdom, and that the keepers would certainly have him again in a few days ; on which the woman wished that a curse might fall on those who should betray him. Remaining in this place till evening, he went into the Haymarket, where a crowd of people were surrounding two ballad-singers and listening to a song made on his adventures and escape.

On the next day he hired a garret in Newport Market, and soon afterwards, dressing himself like a porter, he went to Blackfriars, to the house of Mr Applebee, printer of the dying speeches, and delivered a letter, in which he ridiculed the printer and the ordinary of Newgate, and enclosed a letter for one of the keepers of Newgate.

Some nights after this he broke open the shop of Mr

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Rawlins, a pawnbroker in Drury Lane, where he stole a sword, a suit of wearing apparel, some snuff-boxes, rings, watches and other effects to a considerable amount. Determining to have the appearance of a gentleman among his old acquaintances in Drury Lane and Clare Market, he dressed himself in a suit of black and a tie-wig, wore a ruffled shirt, a silver-hilted sword, a diamond ring and a gold watch ; though he knew that diligent search was being made for him at that very time.

On the 31st of October he dined with two women at a public-house in Newgate Street, and about four in the afternoon they all passed under Newgate in a hackney-coach, having first drawn up the blinds. Going in the evening to a public-house in Maypole Alley, Clare Market, Sheppard sent for his mother and treated her with brandy, when the poor woman dropped upon her knees and begged he would immediately quit the kingdom, which he promised to do, but had no intention of keeping his word.

Being now grown valiant through an excess of liquor he wandered from ale-houses to gin-shops in the neighbourhood till near twelve o'clock at night, when he was apprehended, in consequence of the information of an ale-house boy who knew him. When taken into custody he was quite senseless, from the quantity and variety of liquors he had drunk, and was conveyed to Newgate in a coach, without being capable of making the least resistance, though he had two pistols then in his possession.

His fame was now so much increased by his exploits that he was visited by great numbers of people, and some of them of the highest quality. He endeavoured to divert them by a recital of the particulars of many robberies in which he had been concerned ; and when any nobleman came to see him he never failed to beg that they would intercede with the King for a pardon, to which he thought that his singular dexterity gave him some pretensions.

Having been already convicted, he was carried to the bar of the Court of King's Bench on the 10th of November, and the record of the conviction being read, and an affidavit

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being made that he was the same John Sheppard mentioned in the record, sentence of death was passed upon him by Mr Justice Powis, and a rule of court was made for his execution on the Monday following.

He regularly attended the prayers in the chapel; but, though he behaved with decency there, he affected mirth before he went thither, and endeavoured to prevent any degree of seriousness among the other prisoners on their return.

Even when the day of execution arrived Sheppard did not appear to have given over all expectations of eluding justice; for having been furnished with a penknife he put it in his pocket, with the view, when the melancholy procession came opposite Little Turnstile, of cutting the cord that bound his arms, and throwing himself out of the cart among the crowd, to run through the narrow passage where the sheriff's officers could not follow on horseback; and he had no doubt but that he should make his escape, with the assistance of the mob.

It is not impossible that this scheme might have succeeded; but before Sheppard left the press-yard one Watson, an officer, searching his pockets, found the knife, and was cut with it so as to occasion a great effusion of blood.

Sheppard had yet a further view to his preservation, even after execution; for he desired his acquaintances to put him into a warm bed as soon as he should be cut down, and try to open a vein, which he had been told would restore him to life.

He behaved with great decency at the place of execution, and confessed having committed two robberies for which he had been tried and acquitted. He suffered in the twenty-third year of his age. He died with difficulty, and was much pitied by the surrounding multitude. When he was cut down his body was delivered to his friends, who carried him to a public-house in Long Acre, whence he was removed in the evening and buried in the churchyard of St Martin's-in-the-Fields.

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ROBERT HARPHAM

Under the Pretence of making Buttons he made Coins, and was executed at Tyburn, 24th of May, 1725

THIS offender lived in Westminster, where he carried on the business of a carpenter for a considerable time with some success; but at length had the misfortune to become a bankrupt, after which he appears to have turned his thoughts to a very dishonest way of acquiring money.

Having engaged the assistance of one Fordham, he hired a house near St Paul's Churchyard, and pretending to be a button-maker he put up an iron press, with which he used to coin money, and Fordham, having aided him in the coinage, put off the counterfeit money thus made.

From hence they removed to Rosemary Lane, and there carried on the same dangerous business for some time, till the neighbours, observing that great quantities of charcoal were brought in, and the utmost precaution taken to keep the door shut, began to form very unfavourable suspicions; on which Harpham took a cellar in Paradise Row, near Hanover Square, to which the implements were removed.

While in this situation, Harpham invited a gentleman to dine with him, and was imprudent enough to take him into his workshop and show him his tools. The gentleman wondering for what purpose they could be intended, Harpham said: "In this press I can make buttons, but I will show you something else that is a greater rarity." Having said this, he struck a piece of metal, which instantly bore the resemblance of half-a-guinea, except the milling on the edge; but another instrument being applied to it, the half-guinea was completed.

Our coiners now removed to Jermyn Street, St James's, where Harpham took an empty cellar, and on the old pretence of button-making gave orders to a bricklayer to put up a grate. The bricklayer remarking what a quantity of coals the grate would consume, the other said it was so much the better, for it was calculated to dress victuals either

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by baking, stewing, roasting or boiling. Harpham kept the key of this cellar, permitting no one to enter but Fordham ; and once in three weeks he had a quantity of charcoal and sea-coal put in through the window.

The landlord of the place, suspecting some illegal proceeding, desired his neighbours to watch the parties ; in consequence of which Harpham was soon discovered in the attempt to put off counterfeit money ; on which he and his assistant were apprehended and committed to Newgate ; and Fordham being admitted an evidence, the other was convicted, and received sentence of death.

At the place of execution he exhorted the persons present to beware of covetousness, and be content in the station allotted them by Providence.

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Director of a Corporation of Thieves, and a most famous Receiver. Executed at Tyburn, 24th of May, 1725

JONATHAN WILD was born at Wolverhampton, in Staffordshire, about the year 1682. At about fifteen years of age Jonathan, having made some progress at school in writing and arithmetic, was bound apprentice to a buckle-maker at Birmingham. When his time was expired he married an honest woman at Wolverhampton, by whom he had one son. But they had not been married two years before Jonathan took into his head to leave his wife and child and go up to London. He had been but a few months in town before he ran himself so far into debt that he was arrested and thrown into Wood Street Compter. He said himself (in a pamphlet which he published in vindication of his character) that by misfortunes in the world he was subject to the discipline of the compter for above the space of four years, during which time he was, in some measure, let into the secrets of the criminals there under confinement ; of which knowledge he afterwards availed himself.

Here it was he contracted a close familiarity with one

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Mary Milliner, a common street-walker. She had run round the whole circle of vice, knew all the ways of the town, and most of its felonious inhabitants.

He took a little house in Cock Alley, opposite to Cripple-gate church, where Jonathan, by his own industry and his helpmate's assistance, was in a short time made acquainted with all the thieves of any note, from the desperate highway-man down to the more subtle impostor. He soon knew all their usual haunts, and how they proceeded, and in consequence of this knowledge he had their lives in his power, and from a confidant became a director.

Formerly, when a thief had got a prize, he could easily find people enough to take it off his hands at something less than the real value, for the law had provided no punishment for the receiver. But after the legislature had passed an Act which made it felony to receive stolen goods, knowing them to be stolen, a considerable stop was put to this practice. The few who continued it were obliged to act very cautiously, and, as they ran great hazards, they insisted on such extravagant profits that the thieving trade was in danger of coming to nothing.

But Jonathan contrived a scheme that gave new life to the business, and convening some of his chief prigs he laid the matter before them.

"You know, my bloods," quoth he, "that as trade goes at present you stand but a queer chance; for when you have made anything, if you carry it to the pawnbrokers, those unconscionable dealers in contraband goods will hardly tip ye a quarter of what it is worth, and if ye offer it to a stranger, it's ten to one but ye are babbled. So that there is no such thing as a man's living by his labour; for if he don't like to be half starved he must run the hazard of being scragged, which, let me tell you, is a d——d hard case. Now, if you will take my advice, I'll engage to pay back the goods to the cull that owns them, and raise you more money upon that account than you can expect from the rascally brokers; and at the same time take care that you shall be all insured."

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This was received with general approbation, and immediately put in practice. No sooner was a robbery committed than Jonathan was informed what the goods were, when, how and from whom they were taken. The goods were deposited in some convenient place, but not in his own house; for at his first setting up in business he acted very cautiously, though afterwards he grew daring. When things were thus prepared, away went Jonathan, or the bone of his bone, to the persons who had been plundered, and addressed them to this purpose:

"I happened to hear that you have lately been robbed, and a friend of mine, an honest broker, having stopped a parcel of goods upon suspicion, I thought I could do no less than give you notice of it, as not knowing but some of them might be yours; if it proves so (as I wish it may), you may have them again, provided that nobody is brought into trouble, and the broker has something in consideration of his care."

People who have been robbed are willing to recover their goods with as little trouble as possible, and therefore it was no wonder that they easily fell into Jonathan's measures. But if, as it sometimes happened, the person was too inquisitive—"Sir," says Jonathan, "I only came to serve you, and if you think otherwise, I must let you know that you are mistaken. I have told you that, some goods being offered to pawn by a suspected person, the broker had the honesty to stop them; and therefore, sir, if you question me about thieves, I have nothing to say to you but that I can give a good account of myself: my name is Wild, and I live in Cock Alley, by Cripplegate, where you may find me any day in the week; and so, sir, your humble servant." By this affected resentment he seldom failed of bringing the injured person to treat with him upon his own terms, which on such occasions he commonly advanced.

All this while, as Jonathan had his profits out of what was paid to the broker, he took no money from those to whom he restored the goods, by which means he kept up a

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tolerable reputation, and at the same time there was no law in being that could affect him.

But as he soon became eminent in his profession he altered some of his measures. He no longer applied to those who had lost anything, but they were obliged to apply to him if they expected his assistance, and he received them in his office with much formality. At their entrance it was hinted to them that they must deposit a crown as a fee for his advice. This being done, he demanded their names, where they lived, where and how they were robbed, if they suspected any persons and what kind of persons they were, the particular goods that were lost, and what reward would be given if the goods were returned. These articles being known were entered in a book he kept for that purpose, and then the persons were assured that a careful inquiry should be made, and if they called again in two or three days he might possibly give them some intelligence.

When they came according to appointment and desired to know what success he had met with—"Why, indeed," says Jonathan, "I have heard something of your goods, but the person I sent to inquire tells me that the rogues pretend they can pawn them for more than you offer, and therefore if ever they make restitution it must be upon better terms. However, if I can but once come to the speech of the rascals, I don't question but I shall bring them to reason."

Jonathan had always some advantage or other in examining so minutely into the circumstances of a robbery. If, as was often the case, he knew as much of the matter beforehand as those who came for his assistance could tell him, his inquiries then served to amuse them, and prevent their suspecting his knowledge. But if he had not already been let into the whole or any part of the secret, the exact information he received by this means was such a check upon the thieves that they seldom dared to conceal anything from him; and if they did, or refused to accept of his terms, it was at their peril.

Jonathan now appeared with a sword by his side, and the first use we find he made of it was in an engagement with the

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wife of his bosom. She had some time so provoked him to wrath that he swore by the Lord he would mark her, and thereupon drawing his sword he smote off one of her ears. This occasioned a divorce; but, however, Jonathan, in grateful consideration of the services she had done him, by bringing him into so large an acquaintance, and assisting him in his business, allowed her a weekly pension as long as she lived.

In the year 1715 Wild removed from his house in Cock Alley to a Mrs Seagoe's, in the Old Bailey, where he pursued his business with the usual success; but while resident there a controversy of a most singular character arose between him and a fellow named Charles Hitchin, who was a City Marshal, but was later suspended for malpractices, to whom Jonathan, before his adoption of the lucrative profession which he now carried on, had acted as assistant. These celebrated copartners in villainy, under the pretext of controlling the enormities of the dissolute, paraded the streets from Temple Bar to the Minories, searching houses of ill-fame, and apprehending disorderly and suspected persons; but those who complimented the reformers with douceurs were allowed to practise every species of wickedness with impunity. Hitchin and Wild, however, grew jealous of each other and, an open rupture taking place, they parted, each pursuing the business of thief-taking on his own account.

These rivals in villainy appealed to the public, and attacked each other with all possible scurrility in pamphlets and advertisements. Never was the Press so debased as in publishing the productions of their pens. Hitchin published what he called *The Regulator; or a Discovery of Thieves and Thief-Takers*. It is an ignorant and impudent insult to the reader, and replete with abuse of Wild, whom he brands, in his capacity of thief-taker, with being worse than the thief. Wild retorts with great bitterness; but Hitchin having greatly debased the respectable post of City Marshal the Lord Mayor suspended him from that office. In order to repair his loss he determined, as the most prudent step,

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to strive to bury his aversion, and confederate with Wild. To effect this he wrote as follows :—

“ I am sensible that you are let into the knowledge of the secrets of the compter, particularly with relation to the securing of pocket-books ; but your experience is inferior to mine. I can put you on a far better method than you are acquainted with, and which may be done with safety ; for though I am suspended, I still retain the power of acting as constable, and notwithstanding I cannot be heard before my Lord Mayor, as formerly, I have interest among the aldermen upon any complaint.

“ But I must first tell you that you spoil the trade of thief-taking in advancing greater rewards than are necessary. I give but half-a-crown a book, and when thieves and pick-pockets see you and me confederate, they will submit to our terms, and likewise continue their thefts, for fear of coming to the gallows by our means. You shall take a turn with me, as my servant or assistant, and we'll commence our rambles this night.”

Wild readily accepted the ex-Marshal's proposals, and they accordingly proceeded to take their walks together, imposing upon the unwary and confederating with thieves, whom at the same time they did not hesitate to make their slaves. One or two instances of their mode of doing business may not be uninteresting. They are taken from a pamphlet written by Wild, and may therefore be supposed to be correct :

“ A biscuit-baker near Wapping having lost a pocket-book containing, among other papers, an Exchequer bill for one hundred pounds, applied to Wild for its recovery. The latter advised him to advertise it, and stop the payment of the bill, which he did accordingly ; but getting no account of his property, he came to Wild several times about it, and at length told him that he had received a visit from a tall man, with a long peruke and sword, calling himself the City Marshal, who asked him if he had lost his pocket-book. He said that he had, and desired to know the inquirer's reasons for putting such a question, or whether he could

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give him any intelligence ; but he replied no, he could not give him any intelligence of it as yet, and wished to be informed whether he had employed any person to search after it. He said that he had employed one Wild ; whereupon the Marshal told him he was under a mistake : that he should have applied to him, as he was the only person in England who could serve him, being well assured it was entirely out of the power of Wild, or any of those fellows, to know where the pocket-book was (this was very certain, he having it at that time in his custody) ; and begged to know the reward that would be given. The biscuit-baker replied that he would give ten pounds, but the Marshal said that a greater reward should be offered, for that Exchequer bills and those things were ready money, and could immediately be sold ; and that if he had employed him in the beginning, and offered forty or fifty pounds, he would have served him. Wild gave it as his opinion that the pocket-book was in the Marshal's possession, and that it would be to no purpose to continue advertising it ; and he advised the owner rather to advance his bidding, considering what hands the note was in, especially as the Marshal had often told him how easily he could dispose of bank-notes and Exchequer notes at gaming-houses, which he very much frequented. Pursuant to this advice, the losing party went to the Marshal and bid forty pounds for his pocket-book and bill, but 'Zounds, sir,' said the Marshal, 'you are too late !' and that was all the satisfaction he gave him.

"Thus was the poor biscuit-baker tricked out of his Exchequer bill, which was paid to another person, though it could never be traced back. But it happened that a short time after some of the young fry of pickpockets, under the tuition of the Marshal, fell out in sharing the money given them for this very pocket-book ; whereupon one of them came to Wild and discovered the whole matter—viz. that he had sold the pocket-book, with the one-hundred-pound Exchequer note in it, and other bills, to the City Marshal, at a tavern in Aldersgate Street, for four or five guineas.

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“The Marshal going one night up Ludgate Hill observed a well-dressed woman walking before him, whom he told Wild was a lewd woman, for that he saw her talking with a man. This was no sooner spoken but he seized her and asked who she was. She made answer that she was a bailiff's wife. ‘You are more likely to be a prostitute,’ said the Marshal, ‘and as such you shall go to the compters.’

“Taking the woman through St Paul's Churchyard, she desired liberty to send for some friends, but he would not comply with her request. He forced her into the Nag's Head tavern, in Cheapside, where he presently ordered a hot supper and plenty of wine to be brought in, commanding the female to keep at a distance from him, and telling her that he did not permit such vermin to sit in his company, though he intended to make her pay the reckoning. When the supper was brought to the table he fell to it lustily, and would not allow the woman to eat any part of it with him, or to come near the fire, though it was extremely cold weather. When he had supped he stared round, and applying himself to her, told her that if he had been an informer, or such a fellow, she would have called for eatables and wine herself, and not have given him the trouble of direction, or else would have slipped a piece into his hand; adding: ‘You may do what you please; but I can assure you it is in my power, if I see a woman in the hands of informers, to discharge her and commit them. You are not so ignorant but you must guess my meaning.’ She replied that she had money enough to pay for the supper, and about three half-crowns more; and this desirable answer being given, he ordered his attendant to withdraw while he compounded the matter with her.

“When Wild returned, the gentlewoman was civilly asked to sit by the fire and eat the remainder of the supper, and in all respects treated very kindly, only with a pretended reprimand to give him better language whenever he should speak to her for the future; and after another bottle drunk at her expense, she was discharged.”

The object of these allegations on the part of Wild may

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be easily seen, and the effect which he desired was at length produced ; for the Marshal, having been suspended, and subsequently fined twenty pounds and pilloried for a crime too loathsome to be named, was at length compelled to retire. And thus he left Wild alone to execute his plans of depredation upon the public. The latter, not unmindful of the tenure upon which his reputation hung, was too wary to allow discontent to appear among his followers, and therefore he found it to his interest to take care that where he promised them protection his undertaking should not be neglected or pass unfulfilled. His powers in supporting his word were greater than can be well imagined, in the present state of things, where so much corruption had been got rid of ; and where his influence among persons in office failed him, his exertions in procuring the testimony of false witnesses to rebut that evidence which was truly detailed, and the nature of which he could always learn beforehand, generally enabled him to secure the object which he had in view. His threats, however, were not less amply fulfilled than his promises ; and his vengeance once declared was never withdrawn, and seldom failed in being carried out.

By his subjecting such as incurred his displeasure to the punishment of the law he obtained the rewards offered for pursuing them to conviction, and greatly extended his ascendancy over the other thieves, who considered him with a kind of awe ; while, at the same time, he established his character as being a man of great public utility.

A few anecdotes of the life and proceedings of this worthy will sufficiently exhibit the system which he pursued.

A lady of fortune being on a visit in Piccadilly, her servants, leaving her sedan at the door, went to refresh themselves at a neighbouring public-house. Upon their return the vehicle was not to be found ; in consequence of which the men immediately went to Wild, and having informed him of their loss, and complimented him with the usual fee, they were desired to call upon him again in a few days. Upon their second application Wild extorted from them a considerable reward, and then directed them

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to attend the chapel in Lincoln's Inn Fields on the following morning, during the time of prayers. The men went according to the appointment, and under the piazzas of the chapel perceived the chair, which upon examination they found to contain the velvet seat, curtains and other furniture, and that it had received no kind of damage.

A thief of most infamous character, named Arnold Powel, being confined in Newgate on a charge of having robbed a house in the neighbourhood of Golden Square of property to a great amount, was visited by Jonathan, who informed him that in consideration of a sum of money he would save his life; adding that if the proposal was rejected he should inevitably die at Tyburn for the offence on account of which he was then imprisoned. The prisoner, however, not believing that it was in Wild's power to do him an injury, defied him. He was brought to trial; but through a defect of evidence he was acquitted. Having gained intelligence that Powel had committed a burglary in the house of Mr Eastlick, near Fleet Ditch, Wild caused that gentleman to prosecute the robber. Upon receiving information that a bill was found for the burglary, Powel sent for Wild, and a compromise was effected, according to the terms which Wild himself had proposed, in consequence of which Powel was assured that his life should be preserved. Upon the approach of the sessions Wild informed the prosecutor that the first and second days would be employed in other trials; and, as he was desirous Mr Eastlick should avoid attending with his witnesses longer than was necessary, he would give timely notice when Powel would be arraigned. But he contrived to have the prisoner put to the bar; and, no persons appearing to prosecute, he was necessarily dismissed, and the Court ordered Mr Eastlick's recognisances to be estreated. Powel was ordered to remain in custody till the next sessions, there being another indictment against him; and Mr Eastlick represented the behaviour of Wild to the Court, who reprimanded him with great severity. Powel now put himself into a salivation, in order to avoid being brought to trial the next sessions;

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but, notwithstanding this stratagem, he was arraigned and convicted, and was executed on the 20th of March, 1717.

At this time Wild quitted his apartments at Mrs Seagoe's and hired a house adjoining to the Coopers' Arms, on the opposite side of the Old Bailey. His unexampled villainies had now become an object of so much consequence as to excite the particular attention of the legislature.

Accordingly, in the year 1718 (at the instigation and by the procurement of Sir William Thompson, the recorder), an Act was passed for the further preventing of robberies and felonies, and for the more effectual transportation of felons. By a clause it was made felony for any persons to take a reward under pretence of restoring stolen goods, except they prosecuted the felons who stole them.

This gave a check to Jonathan's business for a while, but it was not long before he ventured to revive it again, though with more caution than before, and by altering his measures he thought still to evade the law.

When people had been two or three times with him in quest of what they had lost, he would tell them that he had made inquiry after their goods and received information that if such a sum of money was sent to such a place the goods would be delivered to the person who carried it. This being agreed on, a porter was called, the money put into his hands, and directions given him to go and wait at the corner of the street; when he came to the place appointed, or perhaps on his way thither, he was met by somebody who delivered him the goods upon his paying the money.

At other times the owners of the goods, as they were going home, were overtaken by a stranger, who put the goods into their hands, and at the same time a note, in which was written the sum of money they were to pay for them.

But in some hazardous cases he commonly put the people themselves upon taking the first step, by advertising what goods they had lost, and offering a reward to anyone who would bring them to Jonathan Wild, who was thereby empowered to receive them without asking questions.

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In the two former cases he never saw the thief, nor received the goods, nor took the money; and in the latter the principal part was the act of the parties robbed, and he appeared merely as a friend in whose honour they could safely confide; and in serving them this way there was no necessity of supposing him to be a confederate with the felons who had robbed them.

When they had got their goods, and desired to know what he must have for his trouble, he would tell them, with an air of indifference, they might do as they pleased; he demanded nothing: he was glad it had been in his power to serve them; what he had done was from a principle of doing good, and without any view of self-interest; and if they thought proper to make him a present it would be their own act, the pure effect of their generosity, and he should not take it as a reward, but merely as a favour.

Jonathan's business being now greatly increased, he found it necessary to take a larger house, and accordingly removed to a more convenient habitation at the King's Head, in the Old Bailey.

It is said that Jonathan, resolving to carry on a trade with Holland and Flanders, purchased a sloop, and put in the famous Roger Johnson to command her; that he carried over gold watches, rings, snuff-boxes and other plate, and sometimes perhaps bank-notes, which had been *spoken* with by the way of the mail. His chief trading port was Ostend, from whence he travelled up to Bruges, Ghent, Brussels and other considerable towns, where he disposed of his effects and took in a lading of hollands and other goods, returned to England, and usually brought his cargo to land in the night, without giving the least trouble to the officers of the custom-house.

This business was carried on pretty successfully for about two years, when by some mismanagement two pieces of holland were lost, and Johnson stopped the value of them out of the mate's wages. The man was so provoked at this that he went immediately and gave information of Johnson's running a vast quantity of goods; whereupon the vessel

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was exchequered, and Johnson was cast in seven hundred pounds' damages, which put an end to his trading to Holland.

There had long been great animosity betwixt Johnson and Tom Edwards, who kept the Case, in Long Lane. One evening, as he was coming out of the Black Lion ale-house in the Strand, which was then kept by one Butler (the brother to Tom Butler, who received his pardon in order to be an evidence against Wild), he met with Johnson and seized him, and charging him with felony carried him to a tavern. Johnson sent for one of Wild's men, who came with a constable and a warrant against Edwards, and carried him before a justice, who committed him to the compter for a highway robbery.

Some time afterwards, Edwards, being again at liberty, and having received intelligence of a large quantity of valuable stolen goods lodged in one of Jonathan's private warehouses, got a warrant and seized them. Jonathan was so provoked at this, though he did not think it proper to claim the goods as his own, that he took out an action in the name of Johnson, to whom he said the goods belonged, arrested Edwards, and threw him into the Marshalsea, where he lay one night, but the next day gave bail for his appearance.

Edwards vowed revenge. He got several informations against Johnson, and only wanted to find where he was. After a long search to no purpose he accidentally met with him on the Stratford Road, seized him, and, sending for a constable, carried him to an ale-house hard by. Johnson sent a messenger to inform Wild of what had happened. Wild and his man, Quilt Arnold, went down directly to Johnson; a quarrel arose, and Johnson made his escape.

An information was made against Wild for his management in this affair, being informed of which, he absconded for three weeks; and then, imagining the danger was over, ventured to appear again in public; but he found himself mistaken, for the high constable of Holborn, hearing that he had returned to his own house, went thither with two assistants and apprehended him, on 15th of February, 1725.

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He was carried before Sir John Fryar, Bart., and charged upon oath with assisting one Johnson, a highwayman, to make his escape from a constable at Bow, near Stratford, in the county of Middlesex, and was thereupon committed to Newgate.

The sessions at the Old Bailey beginning on Wednesday, the 24th of the same month, he entered his prayer to be tried that sessions, or bailed, or discharged. But on the Friday following there came down a warrant of detainer, which was produced in court with several informations upon oath, to the following effect :—

1. That for many years past he had been a confederate with a great number of highwaymen, pickpockets, house-breakers, shoplifters and other thieves.

2. That he had formed a kind of corporation of thieves, of which he was the head or director, and that notwithstanding his pretended services, in detecting and prosecuting offenders, he procured such only to be hanged as concealed their booty, or refused to share it with him.

3. That he had divided the town and country into so many districts, and appointed distinct gangs for each, who regularly accounted with him for their robberies. That he had also a particular set to steal at churches in time of divine service ; and likewise other moving detachments to attend at Court on birthdays, balls, etc., and at both Houses of Parliament, circuits, and country fairs.

4. That the persons employed by him were for the most part felons convict, who had returned from transportation before the time for which they were transported was expired, and that he made choice of them to be his agents because they could not be legal evidence against him, and because he had it always in his power to take from them what part of the stolen goods he thought fit, and otherwise use them ill, or hang them, as he pleased.

5. That he had from time to time supplied such convicted felons with money and clothes, and lodged them in his own house, the better to conceal them ; particularly for counterfeiting and diminishing broad-pieces and guineas.

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6. That he had not only been a receiver of stolen goods for nearly fifteen years past, but had frequently been a confederate, and robbed along with the above-mentioned convicted felons.

7. That in order to carry on these vile practices, and to gain some credit with the ignorant multitude, he usually carried a short silver staff, as a badge of authority from the Government, which he used to produce when he himself was concerned in robbing.

8. That he had under his care and direction several warehouses for receiving and concealing stolen goods; and also a ship for carrying off jewels, watches and other valuable goods to Holland, where he had a superannuated thief for his factor.

9. That he kept in pay several artists to make alterations and transform watches, seals, snuff-boxes, rings and other valuable things, that they might not be known, several of which he used to present to such persons as he thought might be of service to him.

10. That he seldom or never helped the owners to the notes and papers that they had lost, unless he found them able exactly to specify and describe them, and then often insisted on more than half the value.

11. And lastly, it appears that he has often sold human blood, by procuring false evidence to swear persons into facts they were not guilty of, sometimes to prevent them from being evidence against himself, and at other times for the sake of the great reward given by the Government.

The jury found him guilty on one of the indictments and he was sentenced to death. He endeavoured to prevent his execution by drinking laudanum, but the largeness of the draught, together with his having fasted before, instead of destroying him immediately, was the cause of his not dying by it.

After taking the liquid laudanum he grew so drowsy that he could not hold up his head nor keep open his eyes at prayers, and in this condition he was put into the cart and conveyed to Tyburn.

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It is not easy to express with what roughness he was treated by the mob, not only as he went to the tree but even when he was at it. Instead of those signs of pity which they generally show when common criminals are going to execution, they reviled and cursed him, and pelted him with dirt and stones continually. By the time he came to the end of his journey he was considerably recovered from the disorder the laudanum had thrown him into. The other malefactors being ready to be turned off, and the executioner telling Jonathan he might take any reasonable time to prepare himself, he continued sitting in the cart for a little while; but the mob grew so outrageous at this indulgence that they called out incessantly to the hangman to do his office, and threatened to knock him on the head if he did not immediately perform it. He found delays were dangerous, and therefore no longer deferred giving the populace the satisfaction they demanded. Thus ended the life of Jonathan Wild, 24th of May, 1725.

CATHERINE HAYES

*Who with Others foully murdered her Husband, and was
burned alive on 9th of May, 1726*

CATHERINE HAYES was the daughter of a poor man named Hall, who lived at Birmingham, and having remained with her parents until she was fifteen years of age, a dispute then arose, in consequence of which she set off for London. On her way she met with some officers, who, remarking that her person was engaging, persuaded her to accompany them to their quarters at Great Ombersley, in Worcestershire. Having remained with them some time, she strolled on into Warwickshire, and was there hired into the house of Mr Hayes, a respectable farmer. An intimacy soon sprang up between her and the son of her master, which ended in a private marriage taking place at Worcester; and an attempt on the part of the

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officers to entrap young Hayes into enlisting rendered it necessary to disclose the whole affair to the father. He felt that it would be useless now to oppose his son, in consequence of what had taken place, and he set him up in business as a carpenter. Mrs Hayes, however, was of a restless disposition, and persuaded him to enlist, which he did; and his regiment being ordered to the Isle of Wight his wife followed him. His father bought him off, at an expense of sixty pounds, and now gave him property to the value of about twenty-six pounds per annum; but after the marriage had been solemnised about six years Mrs Hayes prevailed on her husband to come to London. On their arrival in the metropolis Mr Hayes took a house, part of which he let in lodgings, and opened a shop in the chandlery and coal trade, in which he was as successful as he could have wished; but exclusive of his profit by shop-keeping he acquired a great deal of money by lending small sums on pledges, for at this time the trade of pawn-broking was followed by anyone at pleasure, and was subjected to no regulation.

Mr Hayes soon found that the disposition of his wife was not of such a nature as to promise him much peace. The chief pleasure of her life consisted in creating and encouraging quarrels among her neighbours. Sometimes she would speak of her husband to his acquaintances in terms of great tenderness and respect, and at other times she would represent him to her female associates as a compound of everything that was contemptible in human nature. On a particular occasion she told a woman that she should think it no more sin to murder him than to kill a dog. At length her husband thought it prudent to remove to Tottenham Court Road, where he carried on his former business, but he then again removed to Tyburn Road (now Oxford Street). He soon amassed what he considered a sufficient sum to enable him to retire from business, and he accordingly took lodgings near the same spot. A supposed son of Mrs Hayes, by her former connection, who went by the name of Billings, lived in the same house, and he and

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Mrs Hayes were in the habit of feasting themselves at the expense of the husband of the latter.

During his temporary absence from town her proceedings were so extravagant that the neighbours deemed it right to make her husband aware of the fact; and on his return he remonstrated with her on the subject, when a quarrel took place, which ended in a fight. It is supposed that at this time the design of murdering Mr Hayes was formed by his wife, and it was not long before she obtained a seconder in her horrid project in the person of her reputed son. At this time a person named Thomas Wood came to town from Worcestershire, and seeking out Hayes persuaded him to give him a lodging, as he was afraid of being impressed. After he had been in town only a few days Mrs Hayes informed him of the plot which existed, and endeavoured to persuade him to join her and her son. He was at first shocked at the notion of murdering his friend and benefactor, and rejected the proposals; but at length Mrs Hayes, alleging that her husband was an atheist, and had already been guilty of murdering two of his own children, one of whom he had buried under an apple-tree, and the other under a pear-tree, and besides urging that fifteen hundred pounds, which would fall to her at his death, should be placed at the disposal of her accomplices, he consented. Shortly after this Wood went out of town for a few days, but on his return he found Mrs Hayes and her son and husband drinking together, and apparently in good humour. He joined them at the desire of Hayes, and the latter boasting that he was not drunk, although they had had a guinea's worth of liquor among them, Billings proposed that he should try whether he could drink half-a-dozen bottles of mountain wine without getting tipsy, and promised that if he did so he would pay for the wine. The proposal was agreed to, and the three murderers went off to procure the liquor. On their way it was agreed among them that this was the proper opportunity to carry their design into execution, and having procured the wine, for which Mrs Hayes paid half-a-guinea, Mr Hayes began to

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drink it, while his intended assassins regaled themselves with beer. When he had taken a considerable quantity of the wine he danced about the room like a man distracted, and at length finished the whole quantity; but not being yet in a state of absolute stupefaction, his wife sent for another bottle, which he also drank, and then fell senseless on the floor. Having lain some time in this condition, he got, with much difficulty, into another room, and threw himself on a bed.

When he was asleep his wife told her associates that this was the time to execute their plan, as there was no fear of any resistance on his part, and accordingly Billings went into the room with a hatchet, with which he struck Hayes so violently that he fractured his skull. At this time Hayes's feet hung off the bed, and the torture arising from the blow made him stamp repeatedly on the floor, which being heard by Wood, he also went into the room, and taking the hatchet out of Billings's hand gave the poor man two more blows, which effectually dispatched him. A woman named Springate, who lodged in the room over that where the murder was committed, hearing the noise occasioned by Hayes's stamping, imagined that the parties might have quarrelled in consequence of their intoxication; and going downstairs she told Mrs Hayes that the noise had awakened her husband, her child and herself. Catherine, however, had a ready answer to this: she said some company had visited them, and had grown merry, but they were on the point of taking their leave; and Mrs Springate returned to her room well satisfied.

The murderers now consulted on the best manner of disposing of the body so as most effectually to prevent detection. Mrs Hayes proposed to cut off the head, because if the body were found whole it would be more likely to be known, and on the villains agreeing to this proposition she fetched a pail, lighted a candle, and all of them went into the room. The men then drew the body partly off the bed, and Billings supported the head while Wood, with his pocket-knife, cut it off, and the infamous woman held the pail to

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receive it, being as careful as possible that the floor might not be stained with the blood. This being done, they emptied the blood out of the pail into a sink by the window, and poured several pails of water after it. When the head was cut off, the woman recommended boiling it till the flesh should part from the bones; but the other parties thought this operation would take up too much time, and therefore advised throwing it into the Thames, in expectation that it would be carried off by the tide, and would sink. This agreed to, the head was put into the pail, and Billings took it under his greatcoat, being accompanied by Wood; but making a noise in going downstairs, Mrs Springate called, and asked what was the matter. To this Mrs Hayes answered that her husband was going a journey; and with incredible dissimulation affected to take leave of him, pretending great concern that he was under a necessity of going at so late an hour, and Wood and Billings passed out of the house unnoticed. They first went to Whitehall, where they intended to throw in the head; but the gates being shut they went to a wharf near the Horse Ferry, Westminster. Billings putting down the pail, Wood threw the head into the dock, expecting it would be carried away by the stream; but at this time the tide was ebbing, and a lighterman, who was then in his vessel, heard something fall into the dock, but it was too dark for him to distinguish any object. The head being thus disposed of, the murderers returned home, and were admitted by Mrs Hayes without the knowledge of the other lodgers. The body next became the object of their attention, and Mrs Hayes proposed that it should be packed up in a box and buried. The plan was determined upon immediately, and a box purchased, but being found too small, the body was dismembered so as to admit of its being enclosed in it, and was left until night should favour its being carried off. The inconvenience of carrying a box was, however, immediately discovered, and the pieces of the mangled body were therefore taken out and, being wrapped up in a blanket, were carried by Billings and

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Wood to a field in Marylebone, and there thrown into a pond.

In the meantime the head had been discovered, and the circumstance of a murder having been committed being undoubted, every means was taken to secure the discovery of its perpetrators. The magistrates, with this view, directed that the head should be washed clean, and the hair combed; after which it was put on a pole in the churchyard of St Margaret's, Westminster, that an opportunity might be afforded of its being viewed by the public.¹ Thousands went to witness this extraordinary spectacle; and there were not wanting those among the crowd who expressed their belief among themselves that the head belonged to Hayes. Their suspicions were mentioned by some of them to Billings, but he ridiculed the notion, and declared that Hayes was well, and was only gone out of town for a few days. When the head had been exhibited for four days it was deemed expedient that measures should be taken to preserve it; and Mr Westbrook, a chemist, in consequence received directions to put it into spirits. Mrs Hayes soon

¹ It was formerly customary to oblige persons suspected of murder to touch the murdered body for the discovery of their guilt or innocence. This way of finding murderers was practised in Denmark by King Christianus II., and permitted over all his kingdom; the occasion whereof was this. Certain gentlemen being on an evening together in a stove, or tavern, fell out among themselves, and from words came to blows (the candles being out), insomuch that one of them was stabbed with a poniard. Now the murderer was unknown by reason of the number, although the person stabbed accused a pursuivant of the king's, who was one of the company. The king, to find out the homicide, caused them all to come together in the stove, and, standing round the corpse, he commanded that they should, one after another, lay their right hand on the slain gentleman's naked breast, swearing that they had not killed him. The gentlemen did so, and no sign appeared against them: the pursuivant only remained, who, condemned before in his own conscience, went first of all and kissed the dead man's feet; but as soon as he had laid his hand upon his breast the blood gushed forth in abundance, out of both his wound and his nostrils; so that, urged by this evident accusation, he confessed the murder, and was, by the king's own sentence, immediately beheaded. Such was the origin of this practice, which was so common in many of the countries in Europe for finding out unknown murderers.

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afterwards changed her lodgings, and took the woman Springate with her, paying the rent which she owed, Wood and Billings also accompanying her ; and her chief occupation now was that of collecting the debts due to her husband, by means of which she continued to supply her diabolical assistants with money and clothes. Amongst the incredible numbers of people who resorted to see the head was a poor woman from Kingsland, whose husband had been absent from the very time that the murder was perpetrated. After a minute survey of the head she believed it to be that of her husband, though she could not be absolutely positive ; but her suspicions were so strong, that strict search was made after the body, on a presumption that the clothes might help her to ascertain it.

Meanwhile, Mr Hayes not being visible for a considerable time, his friends could not help making inquiry after him ; and a Mr Ashby in particular, who had been on the most friendly terms with him, called on Mrs Hayes and demanded what had become of her husband. Catherine pretended to account for his absence by communicating the following intelligence, as a matter that must be kept profoundly secret. " Some time ago," said she, " he happened to have a dispute with a man, and from words they came to blows, so that Mr Hayes killed him. The wife of the deceased made up the affair, on Mr Hayes's promising to pay her a certain annual allowance ; but he not being able to make it good, she threatened to inform against him, on which he has absconded." This story was, however, by no means satisfactory to Mr Ashby, who asked her if the head that had been exposed on the pole was that of the man who had been killed by her husband. She readily answered in the negative, adding that the party had been buried entire, and that the widow had her husband's bond for the payment of fifteen pounds a year. Ashby inquired to what part of the world Mr Hayes had gone, and she said to Portugal, in company with some gentlemen ; but she had yet received no letter from him. The whole of this detail seeming highly improbable to Mr Ashby, he went to Mr Longmore, a

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gentleman nearly related to Hayes; and it was agreed between them that Mr Longmore should call on Catherine and have some conversation with her upon the same subject. Her story to this gentleman differed in its details from that which she had related to Mr Ashby; and Mr Eaton, also a friend of Mr Hayes, being consulted, they determined first to examine the head, and then, if their suspicions were confirmed, to communicate their belief to the magistrates. Having accordingly minutely examined the head, and come to the conclusion that it must be that of their friend Hayes, they proceeded to Mr Lambert, a magistrate, who immediately issued warrants for the apprehension of Mrs Hayes and Mrs Springate, as well as of Wood and Billings, and proceeded to execute them personally. Going accordingly to the house in which they all lived, they informed the landlord of their business, and went immediately to the door of Mrs Hayes's room. On the magistrate's rapping, the woman asked, "Who is there?" and he commanded her to open the door directly, or it should be broken open. To this she replied that she would open it as soon as she had put on her clothes; and she did so in little more than a minute; when the justice ordered the parties present to take her into custody. At this time Billings was sitting on the side of the bed, bare-legged. Some of the parties remaining below to secure the prisoners, Mr Longmore went upstairs with the justice and took Mrs Springate into custody; and they were all conducted together to the house of Mr Lambert. This magistrate having examined the prisoners separately for a considerable time, and all of them positively persisting in their ignorance of anything respecting the murder, they were severally committed for re-examination on the following day, before Mr Lambert and other magistrates. Mrs Springate was sent to the Gatehouse, Billings to New Prison, and Mrs Hayes to Tothill Fields Bridewell. When the peace officers, attended by Longmore, went the next day to fetch up Catherine to her examination, she earnestly desired to see the head; and it being thought prudent to grant her request, she was carried to the surgeon's; and no sooner

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was the head shown to her than she exclaimed : " Oh, it is my dear husband's head ! It is my dear husband's head ! " She now took the glass in her arms and shed many tears while she embraced it. Mr Westbrook told her that he would take the head out of the glass that she might have a more perfect view of it and be certain that it was the same ; and the surgeon doing as he had said, she seemed to be greatly affected ; and having kissed it several times, she begged to be indulged with a lock of the hair ; and on Mr Westbrook expressing his apprehension that she had had too much of his *blood* already, she fell into a fit. On her recovery she was conducted to Mr Lambert's, to take her examination with the other parties.

It is somewhat remarkable that it was on the morning of this day that the body was discovered. As a gentleman and his servant were crossing the fields at Marylebone they observed something lying in a ditch, and on going nearer to it they perceived that it was some parts of a human body. Assistance being procured, the whole of the body was found except the head ; and information of the circumstance was conveyed to Mr Lambert at the very moment at which he was examining the prisoners. The suspicions which already existed were strengthened by this circumstance, and Mrs Hayes was committed to Newgate for trial ; the committal of Billings and Mrs Springate, however, being deferred until the apprehension of Wood.

The latter soon after coming into town, and riding up to Mrs Hayes's lodgings, was directed to go to the house of Mr Longmore, where he was told he would find Mrs Hayes ; but the brother of Longmore, standing at the door, immediately seized him, and caused him to be carried before Mr Lambert. He underwent an examination ; but refusing to make any confession, he was sent to Tothill Fields Bridewell. On his arrival at the prison he was informed that the body had been found ; and, not doubting but that the whole affair would come to light, he begged that he might be carried back to the justice's house. This being made known to Mr Lambert, the prisoner was brought

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up, and he then acknowledged the particulars of the murder, and signed his confession. This wretched man owned that since the perpetration of the crime he had been terrified at the sight of everyone he met, that he had not experienced a moment's peace, and that his mind had been distracted with the most violent agitation.

His commitment to Newgate was immediately made out, and he was conducted to that prison under the escort of eight soldiers with fixed bayonets, whose whole efforts were necessary to protect him from the violence of the mob. A Mr Mercer visiting Mrs Hayes in prison, she begged him to go to Billings and urge him to confess the whole truth, as no advantage, she said, could be expected to arise from a denial of that which was too clearly proved to admit of denial; and he being carried before Justice Lambert again gave an account precisely concurring with that of Wood. Mrs Springate, whose innocence was now distinctly proved, was set at liberty.

At the trial Wood and Billings confessed themselves guilty of the crime alleged against them, but Mrs Hayes, flattering herself that as she had said nothing she had a chance of escape, put herself upon her trial; but the jury found her guilty. The prisoners being afterwards brought to the bar to receive sentence, Mrs Hayes entreated that she might not be burned, according to the then law of petty treason, alleging that she was not guilty, as she did not strike the fatal blow; but she was informed by the Court that the sentence awarded by the law could not be dispensed with.

After conviction the behaviour of Wood was uncommonly penitent and devout; but while in the condemned hold he was seized with a violent fever, and being attended by a clergyman, to assist him in his devotions, he said he was ready to suffer death, under every mark of ignominy, as some atonement for the atrocious crime he had committed. But he died in prison, and thus defeated the final execution of the law. Billings behaved with apparent sincerity, acknowledging the justice of his sentence, and saying that

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no punishment could be commensurate with the crime of which he had been guilty. He was executed in the usual manner, and hung in chains not far from the pond in which Mr Hayes's body was found, in Marylebone Fields. The behaviour of Mrs Hayes was somewhat similar to her former conduct. Having an intention to destroy herself, she procured a phial of strong poison, which was casually tasted by a woman who was confined with her, and her design thereby discovered and frustrated. On the day of her death she received the Sacrament, and was drawn on a sledge to the place of execution. When the wretched woman had finished her devotions, in pursuance of her sentence an iron chain was put round her body, with which she was fixed to a stake near the gallows. On these occasions, when women were burned for petty treason, it was customary to strangle them, by means of a rope passed round the neck and pulled by the executioner, so that they were dead before the flames reached the body. But this woman was literally burned alive; for the executioner letting go the rope sooner than usual, in consequence of the flames reaching his hands, the fire burned fiercely round her, and the spectators beheld her pushing away the faggots, while she rent the air with her cries and lamentations. Other faggots were instantly thrown on her; but she survived amidst the flames for a considerable time, and her body was not perfectly reduced to ashes until three hours later.¹ These malefactors suffered at Tyburn, 9th of May, 1726.

¹ Until the thirtieth year of the reign of King George III. this punishment was inflicted on women convicted of murdering their husbands, which crime was denominated *petit treason*. It has frequently, from some accident happening in strangling the malefactor, produced the horrid effects above related. In the reign of Mary (the cruel) this death was commonly practised upon the objects of her vengeance; and many bishops, rather than deny their religious opinions, were burned even without previous strangulation. It was high time this part of the sentence, a type of barbarism, should be dispensed with. The punishment now inflicted for this most unnatural and abhorred crime is hanging.

RICHARD SAVAGE, Esq. (THE CELEBRATED POET, SON
OF THE EARL OF RIVERS AND THE UNNATURAL COUNTESS
OF MACCLESFIELD), JAMES GREGORY, Esq.,
AND WILLIAM MERCHANT, Esq.

Murderers who escaped Death

MR SAVAGE, Mr Gregory and Mr Merchant, three gentlemen of good education, accidentally came at a late hour, much disguised in liquor, to Robinson's coffee-house, at Charing Cross, and went into a room where a Mr Sinclair and other company were drinking. Merchant, entering first, kicked down the table; and on Savage and Gregory drawing their swords Mr Nuttal desired them to put them up, but they refused to do so.

A scuffle now ensued, in which Mr Sinclair received a mortal wound, and was heard to say, "I am a dead man"; soon after which the candles were extinguished.

The perpetrators of this rash action left the house, but some soldiers were sent for, by whom they were taken into custody and lodged in the roundhouse, and in the morning were carried before a magistrate, who committed them to the Gatehouse; but Mr Sinclair dying on the following day, they were sent to Newgate.

The deceased was attended by a clergyman, who declared that he said he was stabbed before he had time to draw his sword; and this testimony was confirmed by that of other witnesses.

When the evidence was summed up, the Court observed to the jury that as the deceased and his companions were in possession of the room, if the prisoners were the aggressors, by coming into that room, kicking down the table, and immediately thereupon drawing their swords without provocation, etc., it was murder, not only in him who gave the wound, but in those who aided and abetted him.

Several persons of distinction appeared on behalf of the prisoners, and gave them the character of good-natured, quiet and peaceable men. After a trial of eight hours the

NEWGATE CALENDAR

jury found Savage and Gregory guilty of murder, and Merchant guilty of manslaughter; in consequence of which the latter was burned in the hand and discharged.

On the 11th of December, 1727, Richard Savage and James Gregory were brought to the bar with other capital convicts to receive sentence of death; and being asked in the customary manner what they had to say why judgment should not be passed on him, Mr Savage spoke as follows:—

“ It is now, my Lord, too late to offer anything by way of defence, or vindication; nor can we expect aught from your Lordships in this court but the sentence which the law requires you, as judge, to pronounce against men of our calamitous condition. But we are also persuaded that as mere men, and out of this seat of rigorous justice, you are susceptible of the tender passions, and too humane not to commiserate the unhappy situation of those whom the law sometimes, perhaps, exacts from you to pronounce sentence upon.

“ No doubt you distinguish between offences which arise out of premeditation and a disposition habitual to vice or immorality, and transgressions which are the unhappy and unforeseen effects of a casual absence of reason and sudden impulse of passion; we therefore hope you will contribute all you can to an extension of that mercy which the gentlemen of the jury have been pleased to show Mr Merchant, who (allowing facts as sworn against us by the evidence) has led us into this calamity.

“ I hope this will not be construed as if we meant to reflect upon that gentleman, or remove anything from us upon him, or that we repine the more at our fate because he has no participation of it: no, my Lord! for my part I declare nothing could more soften my grief than to be without any companion in so great a misfortune.”

The Queen having been graciously pleased to grant a pardon to Messrs Savage and Gregory, they were admitted to bail on the 20th of January, 1728, in order to their pleading that pardon; and accordingly, on the 5th of March following, they pleaded to the said pardon, and were set at liberty.

SAVAGE, GREGORY AND MERCHANT

Mr Savage was at the same time one of the most ingenious and most unfortunate of the human race. He was a natural son of the Countess of Macclesfield, by Captain Savage, who was afterwards Earl of Rivers. While his mother was pregnant with him she told Lord Macclesfield that the child of which she should be delivered was not his, but that Captain Savage was the father of it.

Incensed at this declaration, Lord Macclesfield preferred a bill in the House of Peers and obtained a divorce, in consequence of an Act passed for that purpose; but the lady's fortune, which was very considerable, was reserved to her own use. Soon after the divorce the Countess married Captain Savage; and the unfortunate subject of this narrative was born on the 10th of January, 1697.

This extraordinary affair greatly excited the attention of the polite world; but the mother of Mr Savage behaved in such a manner as will for ever entail infamy on her memory. She conceived a hatred for her child from the moment of his birth; and, resolved that the proof of her shame should not remain in her presence, she put him out to nurse with a poor woman in the country, with positive directions that he should be brought up as her own son, and not be informed who were his real parents. This trust was faithfully discharged by the nurse; and when young Savage was eight years of age he was placed at the grammar school of St Albans; and though Earl Rivers made repeated inquiries after him he could not learn what had become of him, but he had taken care to have his right name registered in the parish books of St Andrew's, Holborn.

When Savage had attained the age of fifteen years his nurse died, and on examining her papers he came to understand the mystery of his birth and the contrivances that had been carried on to conceal his real origin.

About this time he was advised by his mother's private directions to put himself apprentice to a shoemaker; but this he absolutely refused to do, though he was then almost in want of the common necessaries of life. Reduced to this uncomfortable situation, it was very natural for him to

NEWGATE CALENDAR

apply to his mother ; but though he made repeated efforts to be admitted to her presence she refused to see him ; nor would she answer any of the letters which he wrote to her. It now became absolutely necessary that he should do something for his support ; on which he turned his thoughts to poetry, and wrote several pieces for the newspapers and magazines.

Savage being now in circumstances of distress, his friends advised him to publish his poems by subscription. Preparations were made for this purpose, and he had treated his mother with great freedom in the preface to the intended volume. This circumstance being made known to the Countess, a settlement of fifty pounds a year was made on him, and the preface suppressed ; but the book itself was published, and in the dedication to Lady Mary Wortley Montagu is the following remarkable sentence : “ Nature seems to have formed my mind as inconsistently as fortune has my conditions. She has given me a heart that is as proud as my father’s, to a rank of life almost as low as the humanity of my mother ! ”

In the year 1724 Mr Savage wrote his excellent tragedy, called *Sir Thomas Overbury*, which was acted at Drury Lane Theatre, himself performing the principal character with considerable applause.

Mr Savage was greatly distressed the latter part of his life. He retired to Swansea, in Wales, through economy ; but pursued by some unfeeling creditor, he was cast into Bristol Jail, where he dragged out the remainder of his miserable days.

MARGARET DIXON

*Who was married a Few Days after she was hanged for
Murder in 1728*

THIS remarkable woman was the daughter of poor parents, who lived at Musselburgh, about five miles from Edinburgh, and who brought up their child in the practice of religious duties, having instructed her in such

MARGARET DIXON

household business as was likely to suit her future situation in life. The village of Musselburgh was then almost entirely inhabited by gardeners, fishermen and persons employed in making salt. The husbands having prepared the several articles for sale, the wives carried them to Edinburgh, and procured a subsistence by crying them through the streets of that city. When Margaret Dixon had attained years of maturity she was married to a fisherman, by whom she had several children. But there being a want of seamen, her husband was impressed into the naval service; and during his absence from Scotland his wife had an illicit connection with a man at Musselburgh, in consequence of which she became pregnant. At this time it was the law in Scotland that a woman known to have been unchaste should sit in a distinguished place in the church on three Sundays, to be publicly rebuked by the minister; and many poor infants have been destroyed because the mother dreaded this public exposure, particularly as many Scottish ladies went to church to be witnesses of the frailty of a sister who were never seen there on any other occasion.

The neighbours of Mrs Dixon averred that she was with child; but this she constantly denied. At length, however, she was delivered of a child; but it is uncertain whether it was born alive or not. Be this as it may, she was taken into custody, and lodged in the jail of Edinburgh. When her trial for child-murder came on several witnesses deposed that she had been frequently pregnant; others proved that there were signs of her having been delivered, and that a new-born infant had been found near the place of her residence. The jury, giving credit to the evidence against her, brought in a verdict of guilty; in consequence of which she was doomed to die.

After her condemnation she behaved in the most penitent manner, confessed that she had been guilty of many sins, and even owned that she had departed from the line of duty to her husband; but she constantly and steadily denied that she had murdered her child, or even formed an idea of so horrid a crime. At the place of execution her behaviour

NEWGATE CALENDAR

was consistent with her former declaration. She avowed her total innocence of the crime of which she was convicted, but confessed the sincerest sorrow for all her other sins.

After execution her body was cut down and delivered to her friends, who put it into a coffin and sent it in a cart to be buried at her native place; but, the weather being sultry, the persons who had the body in their care stopped to drink at a village called Peffer Mill, about two miles from Edinburgh. While they were refreshing themselves one of them perceived the lid of the coffin move, and, uncovering it, the woman immediately sat up, and most of the spectators ran off, with every sign of trepidation. It happened that a person who was then drinking in the public-house had recollection enough to bleed her, and in about an hour she was put to bed; and by the following morning she was so far recovered as to be able to walk to her own house.

By the Scottish law, which is in part founded on that of the Romans, a person against whom the judgment of the Court has been executed can suffer no more in future, but is thenceforward totally exculpated; and it is likewise held that a marriage is dissolved by the execution of the convicted party—which indeed is consistent with the ideas that common sense would form on such an occasion.

Mrs Dixon, then, being convicted and executed as above mentioned, the King's advocate could prosecute her no further; but he filed a bill in the High Court of Justiciary against the sheriff for omitting to fulfil the law. The husband of this revived convict married her publicly a few days after she was hanged; and she constantly denied that she had been guilty of the alleged crime. She was living as late as the year 1753. This singular transaction took place in the year 1728.

EDWARD BELLAMY

*A Daring Shop-Robber, who was executed at Tyburn
on 27th of March, 1728*

THIS malefactor was a native of London, and served his time to a tailor; but his apprenticeship was no sooner expired than he associated with some women of ill-fame, and became a thief in order to support their extravagance. His commencement in the art of theft was with a number of young pickpockets, and he soon became an adept in the profession. From this business they advanced a step further. They used to go, three or four in company, to the shops of silversmiths in the evening, and while one of them cheapened some article of small value, his companions used to secret something of greater. It was likewise a practice with them to walk the streets at night, and, forcing up the windows of shops with a chisel, run off with any property that lay within their reach.

Having followed this infamous business about three years, he forged (an offence not then capital) a note, by which he defrauded a linendraper of money to a considerable amount. Being taken into custody for this forgery he was lodged in Newgate, but discharged without being brought to trial, his friends having found means to accommodate the matter with the injured party.

A short time after he left Newgate he made connections with Jonathan Wild, who used frequently to borrow money from Mr Wildgoose, who kept an inn in Smithfield; and Bellamy, wishing to become acquainted with a man whom he thought he could make subservient to his interest, applied to Jonathan to recommend him to Wildgoose, but this the famous thief-taker absolutely refused.

Having often gone with messages and notes from Jonathan to Wildgoose, and being well acquainted with the handwriting of the former, he forged a draft on the latter for ten guineas, which Wildgoose paid without hesitation; and as

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soon as Bellamy had got the money he omitted to pay his usual visits at Wild's office.

A few days after this transaction Wild went to his acquaintance to borrow some money, when Wildgoose told him he had paid his draft for the above-mentioned sum, and producing the note, Jonathan could not be certain that it was not his own handwriting otherwise than by recollecting that he had never given such a draft. Wildgoose was unacquainted with Bellamy's name; but by the description of his person Jonathan soon found who had committed the forgery, on which he ordered his myrmidons to be careful to apprehend the offender. Bellamy was soon found in a lodging in Whitefriars, and Jonathan's men sent word to their master that they had him in custody, and begged he would give orders how they should dispose of him. In the interim Bellamy, who expected no mercy from the old thief-taker, seized the advantage of the casual absence of his attendants from the room, fixed a rope to the bar of the window, and let himself into the street, though the room was three storeys high.

He now entertained thoughts of accommodating the affair with Wild, imagining he should be treated with the utmost severity if he should be reapprehended; but before he had proceeded in this negotiation Wild's men seized him at a gin-shop in Chancery Lane, and sent to their master for instructions how to act. To this message Jonathan returned an answer that they might give him his liberty on condition that he should come to the office and adjust the business with himself.

Thereupon Bellamy was discharged: but, knowing how dangerous it would be to affront Wild, he went the following morning to a public-house in the Old Bailey, where he sent for Jonathan to breakfast with him; and, the latter sending for Wildgoose, Bellamy gave him a note for the money received, and no further steps were taken in the affair.

As soon as this business was adjusted, Bellamy renewed his former plan of making depredations on the public, and

JOHN EVERETT

committed an immense number of robberies in the City of London.

While they were thus rendering themselves the mere pests of society they became intimate with an old woman who had opened an office near Leicester Fields for the reception of stolen goods, something on the plan of that of Jonathan Wild. To this woman Bellamy and his companions used to sell much of their ill-gotten effects; but she having, on one occasion, given a smaller price than they expected, Bellamy determined on a plan of revenge; in pursuance of which he went to her office with a small quantity of stolen plate, and while she was gone with it to a silversmith he carried off her cash, to a large amount. At length he robbed a shop in Monmouth Street. But by this time he had rendered himself so conspicuous for his daring villainies that a reward of one hundred pounds was offered for apprehending him; in consequence of which he was taken, near the Seven Dials, on the following day, and committed to Newgate.

For this last fact he was tried, convicted, and received sentence. He was executed at Tyburn; and just before he was turned off made a speech to the surrounding multitude, in which he confessed his numerous offences, and acknowledged the justice of his sentence.

JOHN EVERETT

Highwayman, Turnkey and Ale-House Keeper. Executed at Tyburn, 20th of February, 1729

JOHN EVERETT was a native of Hitchin, in Hertfordshire, and had been well educated, his father possessing three hundred pounds per annum. He was apprenticed to a salesman, but running away from his master he entered into the army and served in Flanders, where he behaved so well that he was promoted to the rank of sergeant. On the return of his regiment to England he purchased his discharge, and repairing to London bought

NEWGATE CALENDAR

the same street, which he kept three years with reputation, when the Warden of the Fleet persuaded him to keep the tap-house of the said prison. While in this station he was charged with being concerned with the keeper in some malpractices, for which the House of Commons ordered him to be confined in Newgate; but he obtained his liberty at the end of the sessions, as no bill had been found against him. During his confinement his brewer seized his stock of beer, to the amount of above three hundred pounds, which reduced him to circumstances of great distress. He even now resolved on a life of industry if he could get employment, but his character was such that no person would engage him. Thus distressed, he once more equipped himself for the highway. He committed several robberies in the neighbourhood of London, the last of which was on a lady named Ellis, whom he stopped near Islington; but, being taken into custody on the following day, he was tried and capitally convicted. He had been married to three wives, who all visited him after sentence of death. Mr Nicholson, the then minister of St Sepulchre's Church, attended the prisoner while under sentence of death, and kindly exerted himself to convince him of the atrocious nature of his offences; but the numbers of people who visited him from motives of curiosity took off his attention from his more important duties. However, he was at times serious, and would then advise his brethren in affliction to prepare for that death which now appeared unavoidable.

The gaol distemper having seized him while in Newgate, a report was propagated that he had taken poison, but this was totally false.

At the place of execution he behaved in such a manner as induced the spectators to think that his penitence for his past crimes was unaffected.

MAJOR JOHN ONEBY

Who murdered a Man in a Duel and cheated the Gallows, 1729

MAJOR ONEBY was the son of an eminent attorney at Burnwell, in Leicestershire. His father intended him for his own honourable profession, and procured him a marriage with the niece of the celebrated Sir Nathan Wright, who was appointed Lord Keeper of the Great Seal of England.

Sir Nathan appointed him to be his train-bearer—no invaluable place, but greatly inferior to what the young gentleman's ambition had taught him to aspire to. However he kept his place some time, in expectation of preferment; but failing in his views of promotion in this line he bought a commission in the army. He served under the Duke of Marlborough in several campaigns in Flanders, and was promoted in the army as the reward of his military merit. While in winter quarters at Bruges, at the close of one of these campaigns, he had a quarrel with another officer, which occasioned a duel, and Oneby, having killed the other, was brought to his trial before a court martial, which acquitted him of the murder. The regiment being soon afterwards ordered to Jamaica, Mr Oneby went with it, and during his residence at Port Royal fought another duel with a brother officer, whom he wounded in so dangerous a manner that he expired after an illness of several months; but as he did not instantly die, no further notice was taken of the affair.

The rank of Major in a regiment of dragoons had been conferred on Mr Oneby in consequence of his services; but on the Peace of Utrecht he returned to England, and was reduced to half-pay. Repairing to London he frequented the gaming-houses, and became so complete a gambler that he commonly carried cards and dice in his pockets. Having fallen into company with some gentlemen at a coffee-house in Covent Garden, they all adjourned to the Castle Tavern, in Drury Lane, where they went to cards. Mr Hawkins,

NEWGATE CALENDAR

who was of the company, having declined playing, Mr Rich asked if anyone would bet him three half-crowns. The bet was apparently accepted by William Gower, Esq., who, in ridicule, laid down three halfpence. On this Major Oneby abused Gower and threw a bottle at him; and, in return, Gower threw a glass at the other. Swords were immediately drawn on both sides, but Mr Rich interposing, the parties were apparently reconciled, and sat down to their former diversion. Gower seemed inclined to compromise the difference, saying that he was willing to adjust the affair though the Major had been the aggressor. In answer to this Oneby said he "would have his blood," and said to Mr Hawkins that the mischief had been occasioned by him. Hawkins replied he was ready to answer, if he had anything to say; to which Oneby said: "I have another chap first."

Mr Hawkins left the company about three o'clock in the morning; soon after which Mr Oneby rose and said to Gower: "Hark ye, young gentleman, a word with you"; on which they retired to another room and shut the door. A clashing of swords being heard by the company, the waiter broke open the door, and on their entrance they found Oneby holding Gower with his left hand, having his sword in the right, and Mr Gower's sword lying on the floor.

A surgeon of eminence having examined Mr Gower's wounds, it was found that the sword of his antagonist had passed through his intestines, of which wound he died the following day; on which Mr Oneby was apprehended and lodged in Newgate.

The circumstances above mentioned were stated on his trial; but some doubts arising in the minds of the jury, they brought in a special verdict, referable to the opinion of the twelve judges. Mr Oneby having remained in Newgate two years, and the judges not having met to give their opinion, he became impatient of longer confinement, and therefore moved the Court of King's Bench that counsel might be heard on his case. Thereupon the prisoner was carried into court, by virtue of a writ of habeas corpus; and the record of the special verdict being read, the Reverend

MAJOR JOHN ONEBY

Bench, with great humanity, assigned him two counsel, a solicitor and a clerk in court.

Lord Chief Justice Raymond and three other judges presided a few days afterwards, when the Major was again brought up, his counsel, as well as those for the Crown, being heard; after which the Lord Chief Justice declared that he would take an opportunity of having the opinion of the other judges, and then the prisoner should be informed of the event. The Major, on his return to Newgate, gave a handsome dinner, at the Crown and Anchor tavern, in the Strand, to the persons who had the custody of him; and, seeming to be in high spirits on account of the ingenious arguments used by his counsel, entertained little doubt of being discharged.

After a considerable time the judges assembled at Serjeant's Inn Hall to bring the matter to a final decision. Counsel were heard on both sides, and the pleadings lasted a whole day, during which the Major was carousing with his friends in Newgate, and boasting of the certainty of his escape, as he had only acted in conformity with the character of a man of honour.

The judges broke up about ten o'clock at night without declaring their opinion.

Not many days after this the keeper of Newgate told the Major he must double-iron him, to prevent his making his escape, and that he must be removed to a safer place, unless he would pay for a man to attend him in his room. Oneby was shocked at this news and asked the keeper's authority for such a proceeding, but he could obtain no satisfactory answer.

The man appointed to attend the Major in his room was one John Hooper (who was afterwards executioner), a fellow of remarkable drollery, but of such a forbidding countenance that when Oneby first saw him he exclaimed: "What the devil do you bring this fellow here for? Whenever I look at him I shall think of being hanged." Hooper, however, by a knack of telling stories, soon made himself a very agreeable companion to the Major.

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At length the judges assembled again at Serjeant's Inn Hall, and having declared their opinions to each other, the Counsel for the Prosecution demanded that their Lordships would proceed to judgment. Thereupon the sense of the Bench was delivered to Mr Oneby by Lord Raymond, who said that it was the unanimous opinion of the judges that he had been guilty of murder, and that his declaring he would "have the blood" of Gower had great weight in his disfavour. A few days after this judgment of death was passed against him, and he was ordered to be executed.

On the Saturday preceding the day that he was ordered for execution an undertaker went to Newgate and delivered him a letter, of which the following is a copy, saying that he would wait below for an answer :

HONOURED SIR,—This is to inform you that I follow the business of an undertaker in Drury Lane, where I have lived many years and am well known to several of your friends. As you are to die on Monday, and have not, as I suppose, spoken to anybody else about your funeral, if your honour shall think fit to give me orders, I will perform it as cheap, and in as decent a manner, as any man alive. Your honour's unknown humble servant,
G. H.

The Major had no sooner read this letter than he flew into a violent passion, which being made known to the undertaker he thought proper to decamp, without waiting for his orders. When Hooper came at night to attend Mr Oneby he told him of the letter he had received from the undertaker, and in terms very improper for his melancholy situation expressed his resentment for the supposed affront.

Every hope of pardon being vanished, this unhappy man had recourse to a dreadful method of evading the ignominy of the gallows. On the night of the Saturday last mentioned he went to bed at ten o'clock, and having slept till four o'clock on Sunday morning he asked for a glass of brandy-and-water, and pen, ink and paper, and sitting up in bed wrote the following note :—



Todd delin.

Page sculpt.

A PIRATE hanged at Execution Dock.

JOHN GOW

COUSIN TURVILL,—Give Mr Akerman, the turnkey below-stairs, half-a-guinea, and Jack, who waits in my room, five shillings. The poor devils have had a great deal of trouble with me since I have been here.

Having delivered this note to his attendant, he begged to be left to his repose, that he might be fit for the reception of some friends who were to call on him. He was accordingly left, and on a gentleman coming into his apartment about seven o'clock, and the Major's footman with him, he called out to the latter, "Who is that, Philip?" which were the last words he was heard to speak.

The gentleman, approaching the bedside, found he had cut a deep wound in his wrist with a penknife and was drenched in blood. A surgeon was instantly sent for, but he was dead before his arrival.

JOHN GOW

Captain of a notorious Gang of Pirates. Executed at Execution Dock, 11th of August, 1729, for Piracy

JOHN GOW was a native of one of the Orkney Islands, in the north of Scotland, and was instructed in maritime affairs, in which he became so expert that he was appointed second mate of a ship, in which he sailed on a voyage to Santa Cruz.

When the vessel was ready to weigh anchor the merchants who had shipped goods on board her came to pay a parting visit to the captain, and to give him their final instructions. On this occasion the captain, agreeable to custom, entertained his company under an awning on the quarter-deck; and while they were regaling, some of the sailors preferred a complaint of ill-treatment they pretended to have received, particularly with regard to short allowance. The captain was irritated at so undeserved a charge, which seemed calculated to prejudice him in the opinion of his employers; but, conscious of the uprightness of his intentions, he did

NEWGATE CALENDAR

not reply in anger, but only said that there was a steward on board who had the care of the provisions, and that all reasonable complaints should be redressed; on which the seamen retired, with apparent satisfaction.

The wind being fair, the captain directed his men to weigh anchor as soon as the merchants had quitted the vessel. It was observed that Paterson, one of the complainants, was very dilatory in executing his orders; on which the captain demanded to know why he did not exert himself to unfurl the sails; to which he made no direct answer, but was heard to mutter: "As we eat, so shall we work." The captain heard this, but took no notice of it, as he was unwilling to proceed to extremities.

The ship had no sooner sailed than the captain considered his situation as dangerous, on reflecting that his conduct had been complained of and his orders disobeyed. Thereupon he consulted the mate, and they agreed to deposit a number of small-arms in the cabin, in order to defend themselves in case of an attack. This precaution might have been extremely salutary, but that they had spoken so loud as to be overheard by two of the conspirators who were on the quarter-deck.

The captain likewise directed the mate to order Gow, who was second mate and gunner, to clean the arms—a circumstance that plainly insinuated to the latter that the conspiracy was at least suspected.

Those who had overheard the conversation between the captain and mate communicated the substance of it to Gow and the other conspirators, who thereupon resolved on immediate action. Gow, who had previously intended to turn pirate, thought the present an admirable opportunity, as there were several chests of money on board the ship: wherefore he proposed to his companions that they should immediately embark in the enterprise; and they determined to murder the captain and seize the ship.

Half of the ship's company were regularly called to prayers in the great cabin at eight o'clock in the evening,

JOHN GOW

while the other half were doing duty on deck ; and, after service, those who had been in the cabin went to rest in their hammocks. The contrivance was to execute the plot at this juncture. Only two of the conspirators remained on duty, the rest being among those who retired to their hammocks.

Between nine and ten at night a kind of watchword was given, which was, " Who fires first ? " On this some of the conspirators left their hammocks, and going to the cabins of the surgeon, chief mate and supercargo, they cut their throats while they were asleep.

The surgeon finding himself violently wounded quitted his bed, and soon afterwards dropped on the floor and expired. The mate and supercargo held their hands on their throats, and going on the quarter-deck solicited a momentary respite, to recommend their souls to Heaven ; but even this favour was denied, for the villains, who found their knives had failed to destroy them, dispatched them with pistols.

The captain, hearing a noise, demanded the occasion of it. The boatswain replied that he did not know, but he was apprehensive that some of the men had either fallen or been thrown overboard. The captain hereupon went to look over the ship's side, on which two of the murderers followed, and tried to throw him into the sea ; but he disengaged himself and turned about to take a view of them, when one of them cut his throat, but not so as to kill him, for he now solicited mercy ; but instead of granting it the other stabbed him in the back with a dagger, and would have repeated his blow but that he had struck with such force that he could not draw back the weapon.

At this instant Gow, who had been assisting in the murders between the decks, came on the quarter-deck and fired a brace of balls into the captain's body, which put a period to his life.

The execrable villains concerned in this tragical affair having thrown all the dead bodies overboard, Gow was unanimously appointed to the command of the ship. Those of the sailors who had not been engaged in the conspiracy

NEWGATE CALENDAR

secreted themselves, some in the shrouds, some under the stores, in dreadful apprehension of sharing the fate of the captain and their murdered companions.

Gow now assembled his associates on the quarter-deck, and appointed them their different stations on board ; and it was agreed to commence as pirates. The new captain now directed that the men who had concealed themselves should be informed that no danger would happen to them if they did not interfere to oppose the new government of the ship, but keep such stations as were assigned to them. The men, whose terrors had taught them to expect immediate death, were glad to comply with these terms ; but the pirates, to enforce obedience to their orders, appointed two men to attend with drawn cutlasses, to terrify the others into submission. Gow and his companions now divided the most valuable effects in the cabin ; and then, ordering liquor to be brought on the quarter-deck, they consumed the night in drinking, while those unconnected in the conspiracy had the care of working the ship.

The ship's crew originally consisted of twenty-four men, of whom four had been murdered and eight were conspirators, and before morning four of the other men had approved of the proceedings of the pirates ; so that there were only eight remaining in opposition to the newly usurped authority.

On the following day the new captain summoned these eight men to attend him, and, telling them he was determined to go on a cruising voyage, said that they should be well treated if they were disposed to act in concert with the rest of the crew. He said that every man should fare in the same manner, and that good order and discipline were all that would be required. He further said that the captain's inhumanity had produced the consequences which had happened ; that those who had not been concerned in the conspiracy had no reason to fear any ill consequences from it ; that they had only to discharge their duty as seamen, and every man should be rewarded according to his merit.

To this address these unfortunate honest men made

JOHN GOW

no kind of reply, and Gow interpreted their silence into an assent of measures which it was not in their power to oppose. After this declaration of the will of the new captain they were permitted to range the ship at their pleasure ; but as some of them appeared to act very reluctantly a strict eye was kept on their conduct, for, as guilt is ever suspicious, the pirates were greatly apprehensive of being brought to justice by means of some of these men.

A man named Williams now acted as lieutenant of the vessel ; and being distinguished by the ferocity of his nature he had an opportunity of exerting his cruelty by beating the unhappy men—a privilege that he did not fail to exert with a degree of severity that must render his memory detestable.

The ship thus seized had been called the *George* galley, but the pirates gave her the name of the *Revenge* ; and, having mounted several guns, they steered towards Spain and Portugal, in expectation of making a capture of wine, of which article they were greatly deficient. They soon made prize of an English vessel laden with fish, bound from Newfoundland to Cadiz ; but having no use for the cargo, they took out the captain and four men, who navigated the ship, which they sunk.

One of the seamen whom they took out of the captured vessel was named James Belvin, a man admirably calculated for their purpose, as he was by nature cruel, and by practice hardened in that cruelty. He said to Gow that he was willing to enter into all his schemes, for he had been accustomed to the practice of acts of barbarity. This man was thought a valuable acquisition to the crew, as several of the others appeared to act from motives of fear rather than of inclination.

After various adventures they observed a French ship bearing down towards them, on which Gow ordered his people to lay to ; but observing that the vessel mounted two and thirty guns, and seemed proportionately full of men, he assembled his people, and observed to them that it would be madness in them to think of engaging so superior a force.

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The crew in general were of Gow's opinion ; but Williams, the lieutenant, said that Gow was a coward, and unworthy to command the vessel. The fact is, that Gow possessed somewhat of calm courage, while Williams's impetuosity was of the most brutal kind. The latter, after behaving in the most abusive manner, demanded that the former should give orders for fighting the vessel ; but Gow refusing to comply, the other presented his pistol to shoot him, but it only flashed in the pan.

This being observed by two of the pirates, named Winter and Patterson, they both fired at Williams, when one of them wounded him in the arm and the other in the belly. He dropped as soon as the pieces were discharged, and the other seamen, thinking he was dead, were about to throw him overboard when he suddenly sprang on to his feet, jumped into the hold, and swore he would set fire to the powder-room ; and as his pistol was yet loaded there was every reason to think he would actually have done so if he had not been instantly seized and his hands chained behind him, in which condition he was put among French prisoners taken from ships they had pirated, who were terrified at the sight of him ; for the savage ferocity and barbarity of his nature is not to be described, it being a common practice with him to beat the prisoners in the severest manner for his diversion (as he called it), and then threaten to murder them.

No engagement happened with the French ship, which held on her way ; and two days afterwards the pirates took a ship belonging to Bristol, which was laden with salt fish and bound from Newfoundland to Oporto. Having taken out the provisions, and many of the stores, they compelled two of the crew to sail with them, and then put the French prisoners on board the newly captured vessel, which was just on the point of sailing when they began to reflect in what manner that execrable villain, Williams, should be disposed of.

At length it was determined to put him on board the Bristol ship, the commander of which was desired to turn

JOHN GOW

him over to the first English man-of-war he should meet with, that he should experience the justice due to his crimes, and in the meantime to keep him in the strictest confinement.

The fact is, Williams would have been hanged at the yard-arm if an opportunity had not offered of putting him on board the Bristol ship. When he learned their intention respecting him he earnestly besought a reconciliation ; but this being refused him, and he being brought on deck in irons, he begged to be thrown overboard, as he was certain of an ignominious death on his arrival in England ; but even this poor favour was denied him, and his companions only wished him "a good voyage to the gallows."

When the captain of the Bristol ship reached the port of Lisbon he delivered his prisoner on board an English man-of-war, which conveyed him to England.

As soon as the Bristol ship had left them, Gow and his crew began to reflect on their situation. They decided to steer northward ; and, entering a bay of one of the Orkney Islands, Gow assembled his crew, and instructed them what tale they should tell to the country people to prevent suspicion.

Now it was that the fate of the pirates seemed to be approaching ; for such of the men as had been forced into the service began to think how they should effect their escape, and secure themselves by becoming evidence against their dissolute companions.

When the boat went ashore one evening, a young fellow who had been compelled to take part with the pirates got away from the rest of the boat's crew, and, after lying concealed some time at a farmhouse, hired a person to show him the road to Kirkwall, the principal place on the islands, about twelve miles distant from the bay where the ship lay at anchor. Here he applied to a magistrate, said he had been forced into the service, and begged that he might be entitled to the protection of the law, as the fear of death alone had induced him to be connected with the pirates. Having given information of what he knew of their irregular proceedings, the sheriff issued his precepts to the constables

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and other peace officers to call in the aid of the people to assist in bringing such villains to justice.

About this juncture ten of Gow's sailors, who had likewise taken an involuntary part with the pirates, seized the long-boat and, having made the mainland of Scotland, coasted the country till they arrived at Edinburgh, where they were imprisoned on suspicion of being pirates.

Notwithstanding these alarming circumstances, Gow was so careless of his own safety that he did not put immediately to sea, but resolved to plunder the houses of the gentlemen on the coast, to furnish himself with fresh provisions. In pursuance of this resolution he sent his boatswain and ten armed men to the house of Mr Honeyman, high sheriff of the county; and the master being absent, the servants opened the door without suspicion. Nine of the gang went into the house to search for treasure, while the tenth was left to guard the door. The sight of men thus armed occasioned much terror to Mrs Honeyman and her daughter, who shrieked with dreadful apprehensions for their personal safety; but the pirates, employed in the search for plunder, had no idea of molesting the ladies. They seized the linen, plate and other valuable articles, and then walked in triumph to their boat, compelling one of the servants to play before them on the bagpipes. They then sailed to an island called Calf Sound, with an intention of robbing the house of Mr Fea, who had been an old schoolfellow with Gow. This house was the rather pitched upon as Gow supposed that Mr Fea could not have yet heard of the transactions at Mr Honeyman's; but in this he was mistaken. Mr Fea's house was situated near the seashore; he had only six servants at home when the pirates appeared off the coast, and these were by no means equal to a contest with the plunderers.

The tide runs so high among these islands, and beats with such force against the rocks, that the navigation is frequently attended with great danger. Gow, who had not boats to assist him in an emergency, and was unskilled in the navigation of those seas, made a blunder in turning into the bay of Calf Sound; for, standing

JOHN GOW

too near the point of a small island called the Calf, the vessel was in the utmost danger of being run on shore. This little island was merely a pasture for sheep belonging to Mr Fea, who had at that time six hundred feeding on it.

Gow having cast his anchor too near the shore, so that the wind could not bring him off, sent a boat with a letter to Mr Fea, requesting that he would lend him another boat to assist him in heaving off the ship, by carrying out an anchor, and assuring him that he would not do the least injury to any individual.

As Gow's messenger did not see Mr Fea's boat the latter gave him an evasive answer, and on the approach of night ordered his servants to sink his own boat and hide the sails and rigging.

While they were obeying this order five of Gow's men came on shore in the boat and proceeded, doubly armed, towards Fea's house. Thereupon the latter advanced towards them with an assurance of friendship, and begged that they would not enter the house, for his wife was exceedingly ill ; that the idea of their approach had greatly alarmed her, and that the sight of them might probably deprive her of life. The boatswain replied that they had no design to terrify Mrs Fea, or any other person, but that the most rigorous treatment must be expected if the use of the boat was denied them.

Mr Fea represented how dangerous it would be for him to assist them, on account of the reports circulated to their discredit ; but he offered to entertain them at an adjacent ale-house, and they accepted the invitation, as they observed that he had no company. While they were drinking, Mr Fea ordered his servants to destroy their boat, and when they had done so to call him hastily out of the company and inform him of it.

These orders were exactly complied with ; and when he had left the pirates he directed six men, well armed, to station themselves behind a hedge, and if they observed him to come alone with the boatswain instantly to seize him ; but if he came with all the five desperadoes he would

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walk forward, so as to give them an opportunity of firing without wounding himself.

After giving these orders Fea returned to the company, whom he invited to his house, on the promise of their behaving peaceably, and said he would make them heartily welcome. They all expressed a readiness to attend him, in the hope of getting the boat; but he told them he would rather have the boatswain's company only, and would afterwards send for his companions.

This being agreed to, the boatswain set forward with two brace of pistols, walking with Mr Fea till they came to the hedge where his men were concealed. Here Mr Fea seized him by the collar, while the others took him into custody before he had time to make any defence. The boatswain called aloud for his men; but Mr Fea, forcing a handkerchief into his mouth, bound him hand and foot, and then left one of his own people to guard him, while he and the rest went back to the public-house.

There being two doors to the house, some went to the one, and some to the other, and, rushing in at once, they made prisoners of the other four men before they had time to have recourse to their arms for defence.

The five pirates, being thus in custody, were sent to an adjacent village and separately confined, and in the interim Mr Fea sent messengers round the island to acquaint the inhabitants with what had been done; to desire them to haul their boats on the beach, that the pirates should not swim to and steal them; and to request that no person would venture to row within reach of the pirates' guns.

On the following day the wind shifted to the north-west and blew hard, on which the pirates conceived hopes of getting out to sea; but the person employed to cut the cable missing some of his strokes, the ship's way was checked, she turned round and, the cable parting, the vessel was driven on Calf Island.

Reduced to this dilemma, without even a boat to assist in getting off the ship, Gow hung out a white flag, as an intimation that he was willing to treat on friendly terms;

JOHN GOW

but Mr Fea, having now little doubt of securing the pirates, wrote to Gow and told him he had been compelled to make prisoners of his men on account of their insolent behaviour. He likewise told him that the whole country was alarmed, and that the most probable chance of securing his own life would be by surrendering and becoming an evidence against his accomplices.

Eventually by a ruse Gow was induced to go ashore, where he was disarmed of his sword, and made prisoner, after begging to be shot with his sword in his possession.

The leader of the gang being thus secured, Mr Fea had recourse to stratagem to get all the rest into his power. He compelled Gow to make signals for some of them to come on shore, which they readily did, and were apprehended by men concealed to take them as they arrived.

Thus, by an equal exertion of courage, conduct and artifice did Mr Fea secure these dangerous men, twenty-eight in number, without a single man being killed or wounded, and with only the aid of a few countrymen : a force apparently very insufficient to the accomplishment of such a business. When all the prisoners were properly secured, Mr Fea sent an express to Edinburgh, requesting that proper persons might be sent to conduct them to that city.

The express from Mr Fea being arrived at Edinburgh, another was forwarded to London, to learn the Royal pleasure respecting the disposal of the pirates ; and the answer brought was, that the Lord Justice Clerk should immediately send them to London, in order to their being tried by a Court of Admiralty, to be held for that purpose. When these orders reached Edinburgh a guard of soldiers marched to fetch them to that city ; and on their arrival they were put on board the *Greyhound* frigate, which immediately sailed for the Thames.

On their arrival in the river a detachment of the guards from the Tower attended their landing, and conducted them to the Marshalsea Prison, where they once more saw Lieutenant Williams, who had been conveyed to England

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by the man-of-war which received him from the Bristol captain at Lisbon. This Williams, though certain of coming to an ignominious end, took a malignant pleasure in seeing his companions in like circumstances of calamity.

A commission was now made out for their trial; and soon after their commitment they underwent separate examinations before the judge of the Admiralty Court in Doctors' Commons, when five of them, who appeared to be less guilty than the rest, were admitted evidences against their accomplices. Being removed from the Marshalsea to Newgate, their trials came on at the Old Bailey, when Gow, Williams and six others were convicted, and received sentence of death; but the rest were acquitted, as it seemed evident that they had been compelled to take part with the pirates.

Gow, Williams and six of their accomplices were executed together.

A remarkable circumstance happened to Gow at the place of execution. His friends, anxious to put him out of his pain, pulled his legs so forcibly that the rope broke and he dropped down; on which he was again taken up to the gibbet, and when he was dead was hanged in chains on the banks of the Thames.

SIR SIMON CLARKE, BART., AND LIEUTENANT ROBERT ARNOTT

Convicted as Highwaymen in 1731, but afterwards reprieved

SIR SIMON CLARKE and Lieutenant Robert Arnott were tried and convicted of a highway robbery at an assize held at Winchester, but the influence exerted on their behalf almost smothered the promulgation of the trial.

The Gentleman's Magazine for the month of March, 1731, contains the following information; and as we have met with it in no other periodical work of that time, for, in fact, few such are now in preservation, we give it without further comment:

JONATHAN HAWKINS

“ Came on at Winchester, the trials of Sir Simon Clarke, Bart., and Lieutenant Robert Arnott, who were convicted of a robbery on the highway. A numerous concourse of gentry were present. Sir Simon made a most pathetic and moving speech, which had such an effect, that there was scarce a dry eye in the court. The High Sheriff and Grand Jury, considering the antiquity, worth and dignity of Sir Simon’s ancestors, the services they had done their king and country, together with the youth and melancholy circumstances of that unhappy gentleman, agreed to address his Majesty in their behalf; upon which a reprieve *sine die*, which implies for ever, was granted them.”

JONATHAN HAWKINS

Who played Cards after committing a Double Murder and Arson near Wells. Executed 14th of April, 1732

JONATHAN HAWKINS was born and bred in the parish of Mark, near the city of Wells, in Somersetshire, of honest and industrious parents, who educated him in the principles of religion; but, being poor, gave him little or no learning. His father was a husbandman, and brought up his son Jonathan in his own occupation, whereby he acquired a sufficient livelihood and maintenance. He spent all the time of his youth soberly, and in the fear of God, constantly attending at Divine service. He was not addicted to lying, swearing, blaspheming, hard drinking or keeping any ill company; but detestably shunned and abhorred all those enormous vices and lewd courses.

When he arrived at man’s estate he married, and led a sober and regular life during the limited time of the matrimonial bonds. But after his wife’s death he began to swerve from his former course of life, and gradually betook himself to commit several petty crimes.

Among the rest of his friends and acquaintances he had contracted a mutual friendship with one George Gase, who resided in the same parish, and was Jonathan’s

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brother-in-law. It seems that Jonathan, having occasion for a certain sum of money, applied to his brother-in-law, who supplied him with the sum requested, and for the security thereof received Jonathan's bond. The appointed time of payment being partly expired, he studied by what means he might free himself from the payment thereof, and concluded to procure the bond into his custody, or at least to deprive his brother-in-law of any advantage thereby.

Monday, the 17th of January, 1732, was the day on which he had prefixed to officiate and determine his intended villainy; when, entering the house of his brother-in-law, and finding no one therein save the old man and his daughter, Mary Gase, he embraced the opportunity, and put his wicked design in execution, by barbarously murdering them both (the one being nearly eighty years of age and the other about thirty), and afterwards firing the house, which doubtless was to consume the dead bodies, that so his villainy might be cloaked, and he pass unsuspected. As soon as he had completed this horrid act he retired to a neighbour's house, and there played at cards, with as little seeming regret or outward concern as though nothing had befallen him. But in the middle of their diversion they were instantly interrupted, and the scene immediately changed, occasioned by one of the people looking out, and crying: "Fire! Fire!" which sudden disaster alarming them, they all showed a forward and voluntary diligence in going to quench the fire except Jonathan, who on being required to assist them therein answered in the negative. The major part of the parish were gathered together before the force of the conflagration became unquenchable, so that they entered the house; where, to their great surprise (*mirabile dictu*!), they found the bodies of the old man (Jonathan's brother-in-law) and his daughter lying prostrate on the ground, weltering in their blood, with their throats cut from ear to ear. By this time all the inhabitants were in a confusion and uproar, and knew not who to charge with the fact. In this consternation they remained for some time, till, Jonathan being asked for

ISAAC AND THOMAS HALLAM

the key of the door, he replied : " It is in that hedge yonder " (pointing to a box-hedge), where they found it accordingly. They had now just grounds for suspicion and, perceiving his countenance to change, they charged him with murdering the people, and carried him to the place where the bodies lay, to touch them. When he had done this, his colour alternately changed ; and being taxed with the murder he confessed all. And when it was demanded why he set the house on fire, he answered that he did it to burn the bond which he had given his brother-in-law. He was seized and carried before a justice, who committed him to Ilchester Jail.

After about two months' imprisonment Jonathan was conveyed from Ilchester to Taunton, in order to receive his trial. He pleaded guilty to the indictment, and acknowledged all that was deposed against him in court, and accordingly received sentence of death. He was executed on the 14th day of April, 1732, being in the thirty-fourth year of his age, on a very high gibbet, erected on a large common, adjoining to the said parish, called Markmoor, and afterwards taken down and hanged in chains in the same place.

ISAAC AND THOMAS HALLAM

*Murderers and Highwaymen, hanged in Lincolnshire,
20th of February, 1733, upon the Spot where they
committed their Crime*

ISAAC AND THOMAS HALLAM were brothers, who had long, with too much success, carried on a series of daring robberies, and perpetrated cruel murders, insomuch that Government offered a reward for their apprehension.

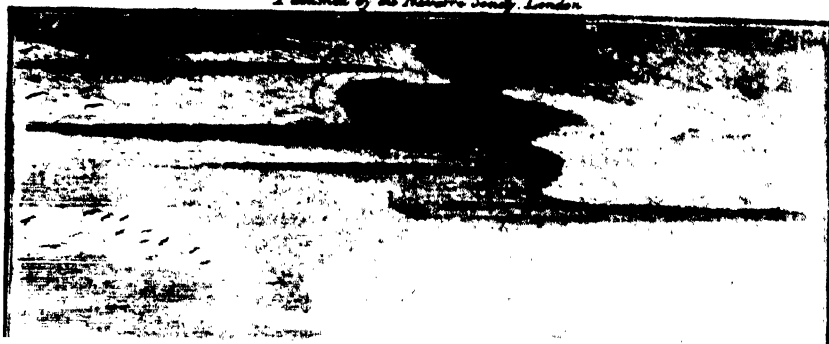
They were at length taken, and charged with the murder of William Wright, a youth of only eighteen years of age, who was found in a post-chaise at Faldingworth Gate, near Market Rasen, in Lincolnshire, with his head almost severed from his body, covered over with the seat-cloth, and his

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pockets rifled. In consequence of the proclamation, extraordinary search was made after these desperate depredators, but they baffled their pursuers nearly a month. At length they were taken into custody, and committed to the jail of the city of Lincoln.

Among their various outrages, they, in mere wantonness, forced a post-boy to blow his horn, then told him he had sounded his own death-peal, and immediately cut his throat, as well as that of his horse, and the bodies of the man and the beast were next morning found close together. From this detestable barbarity, the post-boys of Lincoln mustered with horns on their entrance into Lincoln, and greeted them with their loudest blasts ; whereupon, now stung with remorse, one of them was observed to weep.

They were convicted of the murders of William Wright and Thomas Gardner ; and afterwards confessed that they committed, in company with each other, sixty-three robberies and one murder, exclusive of that for which they were condemned to die. Yet did these shocking offenders attempt to evade their punishment. They procured a case-knife, which they notched like a saw, in order to cut off their irons ; and then, with a spike-nail, they began digging through the wall of their prison ; but were detected. In passing to the place of execution of Isaac, which was the spot where they had murdered the post-boy, this unfortunate brother fell into violent agonies and perturbation of mind. At the gallows, there being no clergyman to attend them, he called to one of the spectators to assist him in his devotions, which the good man readily complied with, and he prayed with much fervency. Thomas was ordered to be carried farther, to the place where they had murdered Mr Wright, but on his seeing his brother turned off, and struggling with life, he shrieked out in a dreadful manner. He then was drawn to Faldingworth Gate, where he died in dreadful agonies of mind. This execution took place on the 20th of February, 1733.



Execution of Sarah Malcolm in Fleet street

SARAH MALCOLM

Executed for the Murder of a Wealthy Old Lady in the Inns of Court, 7th of March, 1733

THIS unhappy young woman, who at the period of her death was only twenty-two years of age, was born of respectable parents, in the county of Durham, in the year 1711; but her father having, through his extravagance, spent the whole of the property which he possessed, she was at length compelled to resort to what is commonly called "servitude," for the means of subsistence. In this condition for several years she conducted herself extremely well; but at length, being employed at the Black Horse, a low public-house in Boswell Court, near Temple Bar, which had been constantly the notorious resort of persons of bad character, she formed connections of no very creditable class, by whom she was led on to her ruin. Having at length quitted the Black Horse she was recommended as a laundress to take charge of chambers in the Inns of Court; and amongst those for whom she there worked was a Mrs Lydia Duncomb, a lady nearly eighty years of age, who occupied a set of chambers in the Temple; Elizabeth Harrison, aged sixty, and Ann Price, aged seventeen, living with her in the capacity of servants. This lady being reputed to be very rich, a scheme was formed by Sarah Malcolm of robbing her chambers; her object being, it was supposed, by the acquisition of wealth, to make herself a fitting match for a young man named Alexander, who she hoped would marry her.

The night of Saturday, 3rd of February, 1733, was fixed upon by her for the commission of the robbery, and Martha Tracy, a woman of light character, her paramour, Alexander, and his brother, were to be her assistants in the execution of the project. Malcolm, by means of her acquaintance with the chambers, obtained possession of the keys of the outer door in the course of the day, and at night the robbery was effected, but with it the murder also of Mrs Duncomb and

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her servants Harrison and Price. On the Sunday morning some surprise was excited on its being observed that none of Mrs Duncomb's family was to be seen ; and at length, as the day advanced, great alarm was exhibited, and suspicions were entertained that all was not right. Mrs Love, Mrs Rhymer and Mrs Oliphant, friends of Mrs Duncomb, assembled in the afternoon at the door of her chambers, in obedience to an invitation which they had received to dinner ; but being unable to gain admittance by knocking, they at length determined to force an entrance. One of the windows was resorted to for this purpose, to which access was obtained from a neighbouring set of chambers ; and then, on Mrs Oliphant going into Mrs Duncomb's bedroom, the old lady was found there strangled, while her servant Harrison was discovered in an adjoining apartment also strangled, and the girl Price was seen lying on her bed with her throat cut from ear to ear. The news of this diabolical crime soon became published through the neighbourhood ; and on the chambers of the deceased being examined it was found that they had been stripped of all the valuables which could be easily carried away, consisting of money, silver and plate, and other articles of a similar description.

In the course of the day some circumstances transpired tending to fix the suspicions of the police upon the woman Malcolm ; and, upon her lodgings being searched, a silver tankard, the handle of which was covered with blood, was found concealed in a close-stool. She was in consequence taken into custody, and having undergone an examination on the following day, before the magistrates, she was committed to Newgate. Upon her entering the jail she was searched by Johnson, one of the turnkeys, who took from her a considerable sum of money in gold and silver coin, and she admitted to him that it was Mrs Duncomb's. " But," added she, " I'll make you a present of it if you will say nothing of the matter." The jailer took possession of the money, but produced it to his superior officers, acquainting them with the conversation which had passed. In the course of the subsequent imprisonment of the unhappy woman she

SARAH MALCOLM

frequently conversed with Johnson upon the subject of the murder, and admitted that she had arranged the robbery, although she declared that she had nothing to do with putting Mrs Duncomb and her servants to death. She asserted that two men and a woman were concerned with her, and that she watched on the stairs while they entered the chambers.

At her trial, when called on for her defence, she made a similar declaration, and stated that Tracy and the two Alexanders were her companions; but she still persisted in her allegation of her ignorance of the murder until it was discovered by Mrs Oliphant on the day after it was committed. A verdict of guilty was, however, returned, and the wretched woman was ordered for execution.

After her conviction she evinced the most sincere penitence, but still persisted in her refusal to confess herself guilty of the whole crime with which she was charged. Upon the bellman coming to her in the customary manner she attended anxiously to what he said, and at the conclusion of his address threw him a shilling to buy wine.

On the morning of execution, 7th of March, 1733, she appeared more composed than she had been for some time past, and seemed to join in prayers with the ordinary, and another gentleman who attended, with much sincerity. When in the cart she wrung her hands and wept most bitterly.

At the place of execution, near Fetter Lane, she behaved with the utmost devoutness and resignation to the Divine will; but when the ordinary, in his prayers, recommended her soul to God she fainted, and with much difficulty recovered her senses. On the cart driving off she turned towards the Temple, crying out, "Oh, my mistress, my mistress! I wish I could see her!" and then, casting her eyes towards heaven, called upon Christ to receive her soul.

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a remarkably fine ring on her finger. On this Raby rode back, and, the lady being unwilling to part with the ring, the remorseless villain drew a knife and cut off her finger for the sake of the paltry prize. This horrid action being perpetrated, they rode to Hampstead, and having robbed some other people the same evening they hastened to Drury Lane, where they divided the spoil.

On one occasion Udall and two of his accomplices, named Baker and Wager, stopped a coach on the road to Uxbridge. A guard being behind the coach, with a blunderbuss, Baker threatened him with instant death if he did not throw it away, and the man obeyed. Wager and Udall guarded the coachman and postilion, while Baker robbed the company ; but this was no sooner done than the guard produced a horse-pistol, with which he fired at Udall, and brought him to the ground ; on which Baker shot the guard, so that he instantly expired.

Udall was conveyed to a farmhouse near Uxbridge by his accomplices, and lay there six weeks before he recovered ; but soon afterwards they killed the person who guarded another coach as it was going over Turnham Green.

Only a short time after the commission of this atrocious crime Udall knocked down a young woman in Fenchurch Street, whom he robbed of a cloak, a handkerchief and her pocket, which contained only a few halfpence.

Not long after this adventure, Udall and some of his associates robbed a physician in the Strand, for which they were all of them apprehended ; but Udall became an evidence against his accomplices, by which he escaped the fate which he had so frequently merited.

He and an accomplice named Man then committed several robberies in the neighbourhood of Epping Forest, and Udall, having one night left his horse at a public-house in the Forest, went to Man's lodgings in an absolute state of intoxication. While he was in this situation Man went out and locked the door, on pretence of care that the men from the Marshalsea should not apprehend his companion ; but he immediately delivered himself into custody and gave

JOSEPH JOHNSON

the key to the runners, who, entering the house, seized Udall, in bed, and conveyed them both to their former apartments.

Man now seriously reflected on his situation, and being apprehensive that he might be seen by some person who would charge him with a capital offence he begged to be conducted to a magistrate, before whom he was admitted an evidence against his companion, on a charge of his having committed several robberies on the highway.

Hereupon Udall was committed to Newgate, and being tried at the next sessions at the Old Bailey he was convicted, principally on the evidence of Man, and received sentence of death. He was hanged at Tyburn, on 14th of March, 1738.

JOSEPH JOHNSON

*Pickpocket and "Esquire," who swindled many Farmers
and was executed at Tyburn, 19th of July, 1738,
at the Age of Sixty*

THE parents of Joseph Johnson lived in the Old Jewry, and, being very poor people, his education was totally neglected. He kept bad company almost from his infancy, and becoming a pickpocket while yet a child, he continued that practice till he was above twenty years of age.

He then took to a new mode of fraud. He used to meet porters and errand-boys in the streets and, by a variety of false pretences, get possession of the goods entrusted to their care. For one of these offences he was taken into custody, and tried at the Old Bailey, where he was acquitted in defect of evidence.

Having thus obtained his liberty, he had recourse to his former practices, till, being apprehended for stealing a sword, he was tried and convicted at the Old Bailey, and sentenced to seven years' transportation.

It happened that one of his fellow-convicts was possessed of a stolen bank-note, which was changed, as is presumed, with the captain of the vessel, who had a gratuity for their

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liberty; for when they arrived in America they were set at large, and took lodgings at New York, where they lived some time in an expensive manner; and the captain, on his return to England, stopped at Rotterdam, where he offered the stolen note to a banker; on which he was lodged in prison, and did not obtain his liberty without considerable difficulty.

Johnson and his associate, having quitted New York, embarked for Holland, whence they came to England, where they assumed the dress and appearance of people of fashion, and frequented all the places of public diversion.

Thus disguised, Johnson used to mix with the crowd and steal watches, etc., which his accomplice carried off unsuspected.

In the summer-time, when London was thin of company, Johnson and his companion used to ride through the country, the former appearing as a gentleman of fortune and the latter as his servant. On their arrival at an inn they inquired of the landlord into the circumstances of the farmers in the neighbourhood, and when they had learned the name and residence of one who was rich, with such other particulars as might forward their plan, the "servant" was dispatched to tell the farmer that the "Esquire" would be glad to speak with him at the inn; and he was commissioned to hint that his master's property in the public funds was very considerable.

This bait generally succeeded: the farmer hastened to the inn, where he found the "Esquire" in an elegant undress; who, after the first compliments, informed him that he was come down to purchase a valuable estate in the neighbourhood, which he thought so well worth the buying that he had agreed to pay part of the money that day; but not having sufficient cash in his possession he had sent for the farmer to lend him part of the sum, and assured him that he should be no loser by granting the favour.

To make sure of his prey, he had always some counterfeit jewels in his possession, which he used to deposit in the farmer's hands, to be taken up when the money was repaid;

JOSEPH JOHNSON

and, by artifices of this kind, Johnson and his associate acquired large sums of money ; the former not only changing his name, but disguising his person so that detection was almost impossible.

This practice he continued for a succession of years, and in one of his expeditions of this kind got possession of a thousand pounds, with which he escaped unsuspected.

In order to avoid detection he took a small house in Southwark, where he used to live in the most obscure manner, not even permitting his servant-maid to open the window lest he should be discovered.

Thus he continued committing these kinds of frauds, and living in retirement on the profits arising from them, till he reached the age of sixty years ; when, though he was poor, he was afraid to make fresh excursions to the country, but thought of exercising his talents in London.

Thereupon he picked the pockets of several persons of as many watches as produced money enough to furnish him with an elegant suit of clothes, in which he went to a public ball, where he walked a minuet with the kept mistress of a nobleman, who invited him to drink tea with her on the following day.

He accepted the invitation, when she informed him that she had another engagement to a ball, and should think herself extremely honoured by his company. He readily agreed to the proposal ; but, while in company, he picked the pocket of Mr Pye, a merchant's clerk, of a pocket-book, containing bank-notes to the amount of five hundred pounds.

Pye had no idea of his loss till the following day, when he should have accounted with his employer. When the discovery was made, immediate notice was sent to the bank to stop payment of the notes ; and Johnson was actually changing one of them, to the amount of fifty pounds, when the messenger came thither. Thereupon he was taken into custody, and being tried at the next sessions at the Old Bailey, for privately stealing, was capitally convicted ; and this offence being without the benefit of clergy, he was

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sentenced to death. He was hanged at Tyburn, on the 19th of July, 1738, without making any confession of his crimes, and refusing to join in the customary devotions on such an awful occasion, though a sinner of above sixty years of age.

WILLIAM NEWINGTON

A Writer, who forged a Draft for One Hundred and Twenty Pounds and was executed at Tyburn on 26th of August, 1738

THIS unhappy young man was a native of Chichester, in Sussex, and was the son of reputable parents, who, having given him a good education, placed him with Mr Cave, an attorney of that town, with whom he served his clerkship; and then, coming to London, lived as a hackney-writer with Mr Studley, in Nicholas Lane, Lombard Street, for about two years and a half.

But Newington being of a volatile disposition, and much disposed to the keeping of company and irregular hours, Mr Studley discharged him from his service; on which he went to live with Mr Leaver, a scrivener, in Friday Street, with whom he continued between two and three years, and served him with a degree of fidelity that met with the highest approbation.

This service he quitted about a year before he was convicted of the offence which cost him his life; and in the interval lived in a gay manner, without having any visible means of support, and paid his addresses to a young lady of very handsome fortune, to whom he would soon have been married. It is presumed that, being distressed for money to support his expensive way of life, and to carry on his amour, he was tempted to commit forgery, which, by an Act of Parliament then recently passed, had been made a capital offence.

He went to Child's coffee-house, in St Paul's Churchyard, where he drew a draft on the house of Child & Company, bankers, in Fleet Street, in the following words:—

WILLIAM NEWINGTON

SIR FRANCIS CHILD AND COMP.

Pray pay to Sir Rowland Hill, Bart., or order, the sum of one hundred and twenty pounds, and place it to the account of your humble servant,

THOMAS HILL.

To SIR FRA. CHILD AND COMP.

TEMPLE BAR.

The draft he dispatched by a porter, but was so agitated by his fears while he wrote it that he forgot to put any date to it; otherwise, as Mr Thomas Hill kept cash with the bankers, and as the forgery was admirably executed, the draft would have been paid; but, at the instant that the porter was about to put his endorsement on it, one of the clerks said he might go about his business, for that they did not believe the draft was a good one.

The porter returned to the coffee-house without the draft, which the bankers' clerks had refused to deliver him; but on his return he found that the gentleman was gone.

At the expiration of two hours the bankers' clerks came to Child's coffee-house and inquired for the person who had made the draft; but he was not to be found, for in the absence of the porter he had inquired for the Faculty Office in Doctors' Commons, saying he had some business at that place and would return in half-an-hour.

About two or three hours afterwards the porter's son told him that a gentleman wanted him at the Horn and Feathers, in Carter Lane, where he went, and told Newington that the bankers had refused to pay the note. "Very well," said he, "stay here till I go and put on my shoes, and I will go with you and rectify the mistake."

When the porter had waited nearly three hours, and his employer did not return, he began to suspect that the draft was forged, and some hours afterwards, calling in at the Fountain ale-house in Cheapside, he saw Newington; on which he went and fetched a constable, who took him into custody, and lodged him in the compter.

Being tried at the next sessions at the Old Bailey, he was capitally convicted, notwithstanding nine gentlemen appeared

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to give him an excellent character ; but character has little weight where evidence is positive and the crime is capital.

When called down to receive sentence of death he delivered the following address :—

“ May it please your Lordship : This my most melancholy case was occasioned by the alone inconsiderate rashness of my inexperienced years. The intent of fraud is, without doubt, most strongly and most positively found against me ; but I assure your Lordship I was not in want ; nor did I ever think of such a thing in the whole course of my life till within a few minutes of the execution of this rash deed.

“ I hope your Lordship has some regard for the gentlemen who have so generously appeared in my behalf ; and as this is the first fact, though of so deep a dye, my youth and past conduct may, I hope in some measure, move your Lordship’s pity, compassion and generous assistance.”

After conviction, Newington flattered himself that he should escape the utmost ignominy of the law through the intercession of his friends ; but when the warrant for execution, in which his name was included, was brought to Newgate, he appeared to be greatly shocked ; but recollecting and composing himself he said : “ God’s will be done.” But immediately bursting into tears, he lamented the misery which his mother would naturally endure when she should be acquainted with the wretched fate of her unfortunate son.

The dreadful tidings being conveyed to his mother, she left Chichester with an aching heart ; and it was a week after her arrival in London before she could acquire a sufficient degree of spirits to visit the unfortunate cause of her grief.

At length she repaired to the gloomy mansion ; but when she saw her son fettered with chains it was with the utmost difficulty that she could be kept from fainting. She hung round his neck, while he dropped on his knees and implored her blessing and forgiveness ; and so truly mournful was the spectacle that even the jailers, accustomed as they are to scenes of horror, shed tears at the sight. He was executed at Tyburn, on the 26th of August, 1738.

GEORGE PRICE

*Sentenced to Death for murdering his Wife, but died of
Jail Fever, 22nd of October, 1738*

THIS malefactor was a native of Hay, in Brecknockshire, where he lived as a servant to a widow lady. Having lived in this station seven years, he repaired to London, and became acquainted with Mary Chambers, servant at a public-house at Hampstead, whom he married at the expiration of a fortnight from his first paying his addresses to her; but Mr Brown, his master, disapproving of the match, dismissed Price from his service.

Soon after this he took his wife into Brecknockshire, and imposed her on his relations as the daughter of a military officer, who would become entitled to a large fortune. He was treated in the most friendly manner by his relations; and the young couple returning to London, the wife went to lodge at Hampstead, while Price engaged in the service of a gentleman in New Broad Street.

Mrs Price, being delivered of twins, desired her husband to buy some medicine to make the children sleep, which he procured; and on the children dying soon afterwards a report was circulated that he had poisoned them; but this circumstance he denied to the last moment of his life.

Price now paid his addresses to other women, and conceiving his wife as an obstacle between him and his wishes he formed the infernal resolution of murdering her. He told her that he had procured the place of a nursery-maid for her in the neighbourhood of Putney, and that he would attend her thither that very day. He then directed her to meet him at the Woolpack, in Monkswell Street. Accordingly she went home and dressed herself (having borrowed some clothes of her landlady) and met her husband, who put her in a chaise, and drove her out of town towards Hounslow. When he came on Hounslow Heath it was nearly ten o'clock at night; when he suddenly stopped the chaise and threw the lash of the whip round his wife's

NEWGATE CALENDAR

neck ; but drawing it too hastily he made a violent mark on her chin ; immediately finding his mistake, he placed it lower, on which she exclaimed : “ My dear ! my dear ! For God’s sake—if this is your love, I will never trust you more.”

Immediately on her pronouncing these words, which were her last, he pulled the ends of the whip with great force ; but, the violence of his passion abating, he let go before she was quite dead ; yet, resolving to accomplish the horrid deed, he once more put the thong of the whip about her neck, and pulled it with such violence that it broke ; but not till the poor woman was dead.

Having stripped the body, he left it almost under a gibbet where some malefactors hung in chains, having first disfigured it to such a degree that he presumed it could not be known. He brought the clothes to London, some of which he cut in pieces, and dropped in different streets ; but knowing that the others were borrowed of the landlady he sent them to her, a circumstance that materially conduced to his conviction.

He reached London about one o’clock in the morning, and being interrogated why he came at such an unseasonable hour, he said that the Margate hoy had been detained in the river by contrary winds.

On the following day the servants and other people made so many inquiries respecting his wife that, terrified at the idea of being taken into custody, he immediately fled to Portsmouth, with a view to entering on board a ship ; but no vessel was then ready to sail.

While he was drinking at an ale-house in Portsmouth he heard the bellman crying him as a murderer, with such an exact description of him that he was apprehensive of being seized, and observing a window which opened to the water he jumped out, and swam for his life.

Having gained the shore, he travelled all night, till he reached a farmhouse, where he slept on some straw in the barn.

On the following day he crossed the country towards Oxford, where he endeavoured to get into service, and would

GEORGE PRICE

have been engaged by a physician, but happening to read a newspaper in which he was advertised he immediately decamped from Oxford, and travelled into Wales.

Having stopped at a village a few miles from Hay, at the house of a shoemaker, to whom his brother was apprenticed, the latter obtained his master's permission to accompany his brother home; and while they were on their walk the malefactor recounted the particulars of the murder which had obliged him to seek his safety in flight.

The brother commiserated his condition; and, leaving him at a small distance from their father's house, went in and found the old gentleman reading an advertisement describing the murderer. The younger son bursting into tears, the father said he hoped his brother was not come; to which the youth replied: "Yes, he is at the door; but being afraid that some of the neighbours were in the house he would not come in till he had your permission."

The offender on being introduced fell on his knees, and earnestly besought his father's blessing; to which the aged parent said: "Ah! George, I wish God may bless you, and what I have heard concerning you may be false." The son said: "It is false; but let me have a private room; make no words; I have done no harm; let me have a room to myself."

Being accommodated agreeable to his request, he produced half-a-crown, begging that his brother would buy a lancet, as he was resolved to put a period to his miserable existence; but the brother declined to in any way aid in the commission of the crime of suicide; and the father, after exerting every argument to prevent his thinking of such a violation of the laws of God, concealed him for two days.

It happened that the neighbours observed a fire in a room where none had been for a considerable time before, and a report was propagated that Price was secreted in the house of his father; whereupon he thought it prudent to abscond in the night; and having reached Gloucester he went to an inn and procured the place of an ostler.

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During his residence at Gloucester two of the sons of the lady with whom he had first lived as a servant happened to be at a school in that city, and Price behaved to them with so much civility that they wrote to their mother describing his conduct; in reply to which she informed them that he had killed his wife, and desired them not to hold any correspondence with him.

The young gentlemen mentioning this circumstance, one of Price's fellow-servants said to him: "You are the man that murdered your wife on Hounslow Heath. I will not betray you, but if you stay longer you will certainly be taken into custody."

Stung by the reflections of his own conscience, and agitated by the fear of momentary detection, Price knew not how to act; but at length he resolved to come to London and surrender to justice; and calling on his former master, and being apprehended, he was committed to Newgate.

At the following sessions at the Old Bailey he was brought to his trial, and convicted. He was sentenced to death, but died of the jail fever¹ in Newgate, before the law could be executed on him, on the 22nd of October, 1738.

RICHARD TURPIN

A famous Highway Robber, who shot dead one of his own Comrades and was executed at York on 7th of April, 1739

RICHARD TURPIN was a son of John Turpin, of Epping, in the county of Essex, who put him to school to a writing-master; whence he was apprenticed to a butcher of Whitechapel, where he served his time. He was frequently guilty of misdemeanours and behaved in a disorderly manner. As soon as he came out of his time he married the daughter of one Palmer, and set up for himself in Essex, where he was reduced to the necessity of maintaining himself by indirect practices, and accordingly very often used to rob the neighbouring gentlemen of sheep,

¹ See Appendix.



W. J. G. delint.

Roberts sculp.

RICHARD TURPIN *Shooting a Man near his*
Cave on Epping Forest.

RICHARD TURPIN

lambs, oxen, etc. Once he stole a couple of oxen from Mr Giles, of Plaistow, which he had conveyed to his own house and cut up, but was detected by two of the gentleman's servants, who, having a suspicion of him, from some information they had received, inquired where Turpin sold the hides of his beasts, and being informed that he generally sold them at Waltham Abbey they went there, and were convinced, on sight of the hides, that Turpin was the man who stole the oxen, and immediately returned to apprehend him; being apprised of this he jumped out of a window and made his escape: when he was gone his wife disposed of the carcasses.

Turpin, upon this, immediately formed a design of commencing as a smuggler, for which purpose he went into the hundreds of Essex, where he became acquainted with a gang of smugglers. Soon after he met with a gang of deer-stealers, who, finding him a desperate fellow, and ripe for any mischief, admitted him among them. It was Turpin's being engaged with this crew that brought him acquainted with Gregory, Fielder, Rose and Wheeler, who were afterwards called the "Essex Gang." They followed deerstealing only for some time. Then they formed themselves into a body, by Turpin's direction, and resolved to go round the country at nights. Whenever they knew a house had anything of value in it one knocked at the door, and as soon as it was opened the others rushed in and commenced plundering; nor were they content to take the money, plate and watches, but they seized even household goods if they found any they liked.

The first person attacked by them was one Mr Strype, an old man that kept a chandler's shop at Watford, from whom they took what little money he had scraped together, but did him no further mischief. Their next attempt was a scheme of Turpin's, who told the gang he knew an old woman at Loughton who, he was sure, had seven or eight hundred pounds by her. Accordingly they proceeded to Loughton. Wheeler knocked at the door and Turpin and his companions all rushed in. The first thing they did was

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to bind the old lady, her son, her man and maid ; then Turpin began to examine where the money and effects were, telling her at the same time he knew she had money, and it was in vain to deny it, for have it they would. The old gentlewoman persisted that she had none ; upon which some of the crew were inclined to believe her ; but Turpin, insisting she had money, at last cried : “ If you won’t tell us I will set you on the grate.” She, imagining he only meant to threaten her, remained silent, and even suffered herself to be so served, and endured it for some time, till the anguish at last forced her to discover ; when she had done this they took her off the grate and robbed her of all they could find, which was upwards of four hundred pounds.

The next person they robbed was a farmer near Ripple-side. They first of all, according to their usual custom, tied the old man, the old woman, the servant-maid and a son-in-law of the old farmer ; they afterwards ransacked the house, and in money and things robbed the old farmer of about seven hundred pounds.

On Saturday, the 11th of January, 1735, at seven or eight o’clock in the evening, Turpin, Fielder, Walker and three others came to the door of Mr Saunders, a wealthy farmer at Charlton, in Kent, and, knocking at the door, inquired if Mr Saunders was at home ; being answered he was, they all rushed in, and went directly to the parlour, where Mr Saunders, his wife and some friends were at cards, and desired them not to be frightened, for that they would not hurt their persons if they sat still and made no disturbance. The first thing they laid hands on was a silver snuff-box, which lay on the table before them, and having secured the rest of the company obliged Mr Saunders to go about the house with them, and open his closets, boxes and escritoire, from whence they took upwards of one hundred pounds in money, and all the plate in the house, a velvet hood, a mantle, and divers other things of value, and finding in their search some bottles of wine, a bottle of brandy and some mince-pies, they all sat down, drank a bottle of wine and ate a mince-pie, and obliged the company to drink each a dram of brandy. On

RICHARD TURPIN

Mrs Saunders fainting away with the fright they got her a glass of water, put some drops in it and were very careful to recover her.

On Saturday, the 18th of January, Turpin, Fielder, Walker and two others made an appointment to rob Mr Sheldon's house, near Croydon, in Surrey, and for that purpose about seven went to Mr Sheldon's. Perceiving a light in the stable they went thither, where the coachman was dressing his horses; him they bound, and going from thence met Mr Sheldon in the yard, whom they seized, and compelled him to show them the way into the house. They took from Mr Sheldon eleven guineas, and robbed the house of several pieces of plate, jewels and some other things of value; but before they left the place they returned Mr Sheldon two guineas of the money, asked pardon for what they had done, and bade him good-night.

On Tuesday, the 4th of February, Turpin, Gregory, Fielder, Rose and Wheeler, having formed a design to rob Mr Lawrence, at Edgewarebury, near Stanmore, in Middlesex, they all went away together to Mr Lawrence's, where they got about half-an-hour after seven. In this robbery they got about twenty-six pounds in money on the whole, besides plate and goods; yet they made no fair distribution of it among themselves, for to Wheeler, who was set to watch Mr Lawrence and his servants whilst the others were rifling the house, his companions pretended they had got only three guineas on the whole, and about six shillings and sixpence in silver.

On the 7th of February, Turpin, Fielder, Rose, Walker, Bush and Gregory, together with Wheeler, met by appointment at the White Bear Inn, at the upper end of Drury Lane, when they agreed to rob Mr Francis, a farmer near Marylebone, where they arrived about seven; and while they were observing the house one of them perceived somebody in the cowhouse, and finding one of the men-servants there they seized and bound him, and carried him into the stable, where there was another of Mr Francis's men, whom they seized and bound also. But in this robbery, as they

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had done before, they cheated each other ; for, excepting the goods, they divided only nine pounds, twelve shillings and sixpence amongst them ; the guineas were secreted by him that laid hands on them. They spent about an hour and a half in rifling the house, whilst Gregory stood sentry over old Mrs Francis and her maid and daughter, and Turpin and Bush over Mr Francis and the two servants in the stable. When they had packed up their plunder they all marched off with what they had got.

These transactions alarmed the whole country, nobody thinking himself safe ; upon which Mr Thompson, one of the King's keepers, went to the Duke of Newcastle's office, and obtained his Majesty's promise for a reward of one hundred pounds for whoever should apprehend any of them. This made them a little more cautious. However, some of the keepers and others, having intelligence that they were all regaling themselves at an ale-house in an alley at Westminster, pursued them thither, and, bursting open the door, found Turpin, Fielder, Rose and Wheeler, and two women. Fielder, Rose and Wheeler, after a stout resistance, were taken, but Turpin made his escape out of a window and, taking horse, rode away immediately.

Turpin, being quite left to himself, took a resolution to be concerned in no other gang, but to go towards Cambridge, as he was not known in that country.

But before he reached his journey's end he met with the following odd encounter. King, the highwayman, who had been towards Cambridge on the same count, was coming back to London. Turpin, seeing him well mounted and appearing like a gentleman, thought that was the time to recruit his pockets, and accordingly bade King stand, who, keeping him in discourse some time and dallying with him, Turpin swore if he did not deliver immediately he would shoot him through the head. Upon which King fell a-laughing and said : " What ! Dog eat dog ! Come, come, brother Turpin, if you don't know me, I know you, and should be glad of your company." After mutual assurances of fidelity to each other, and that nothing should part them

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but death, they agreed to go together upon some exploits, and met with a small booty that very day, after which they continued together, committing divers robberies, for nearly three years.

King being very well known about the country, as Turpin likewise was, insomuch that no house would entertain them, they formed a design of making a cave, and to that purpose pitched upon a place enclosed with a large thicket, situate between Loughton Road and King's Oak Road. Here they made a place large enough to receive them and their horses ; and while they lay, quite concealed themselves, could see through several holes made on purpose what passengers went by in either road, and, as they thought proper, could issue out and rob them. In this cave they lived, ate, drank and lay. Turpin's wife supplied them with victuals and frequently stayed there all night.

From the forest King and he once took a ride to Bungay, in Suffolk, where Turpin, having seen two young market-women receive thirteen or fourteen pounds for corn, would rob them, and accordingly did, against King's consent, which occasioned a dispute between them.

At their return to their cave they robbed one Mr Bradele, who was taking an airing in his chariot with his two children.

Shortly after this Turpin, King and one Potter, whom they had lately taken into their company, set out for London, and coming over the forest, within about three hundred yards of the Green Man public-house, Turpin's horse began to tire. They overtook one Mr Major, and although they were so near the house Turpin ventured to rob him, took his whip, and, finding he had a better horse than his, made him dismount and change, and stay till he had changed saddles likewise, and then rode towards London. Mr Major got to the Green Man, and acquainted Mr Bayes with it, who immediately said : " I dare swear 'tis Turpin has done it."

This robbery was committed on Saturday night, and on Monday following Mr Bayes received intelligence that such a horse as Mr Major had lost was left at the Red Lion, in Whitechapel ; he accordingly went thither and found it

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to be the same, and then resolved to wait till somebody came to fetch it. About eleven o'clock at night King's brother came for the horse, upon which he was seized immediately and taken into the house, when he said he had bought the horse and could produce proof of it. Mr Bayes then charged a constable with him ; whereupon he became frightened, and when they declared that they believed he was merely sent to fetch the horse by the rogues that stole it, and if he would tell them where they waited he should be released, he told them there was a lusty man in a white duffle coat waiting for it in Red Lion Street. Mr Bayes immediately went out and, finding him as directed, perceived it was King, and coming round upon him attacked him. Turpin, who was waiting not far off on horseback, hearing a skirmish, came up, when King cried out : " Dick, shoot him, or we are taken, by G—d " ; at which instant Turpin fired his pistol. It missed Bayes and shot King in two places, who cried out : " Dick, you have killed me ! " When Turpin heard this he rode away as fast as he could.

After this he still kept about the forest, till he was harassed almost to death ; for his place of safety, the cave, had, whilst he was absent, been discovered. Then he made a journey by Lincolnshire, and having taken the name of Palmer he resided for some time at Long Sutton. Afterwards he went to Brough, near Machet Cave, in Yorkshire, and stayed some time at the Ferry House, in Brough ; from thence he went sometimes to live at North Cave, and at other times at Welton ; and at these places he continued, under the name of Palmer, about fifteen or sixteen months. While he lived at Brough, Cave and Welton he often took his diversion with the gentlemen of the country, in hunting and shooting. Once, as he was returning from shooting, which was in the beginning of October, 1738, seeing one of his landlord's cocks in the street, he shot at it and killed it ; which Hall, his neighbour, taking notice of, said to him : " You have done wrong in shooting your landlord's cock." To which Palmer replied if he would only stay while he charged his piece he would shoot him too. Upon which Hall went

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and acquainted the landlord with what "Palmer" had done and said. The landlord immediately thereupon went with Hall to Justice Crowley and obtained a warrant for apprehending the said Palmer; and the next day he was taken into custody and conveyed before the bench of justices, then sitting in their General Quarter Sessions, at Beverley, and was examined by the justices of the East Riding of Yorkshire, who demanded sureties for his good behaviour, and he refusing to find any they committed him to the house of correction.

Some persons of Brough and Welton, having given information to the justices that Palmer frequently went into Lincolnshire and usually returned with plenty of money and several horses, which he sold or exchanged in Yorkshire, and that there was reason to suspect that he was either a highwayman or horse-stealer, the justices the next day went to the said John Palmer and demanded of him who he was, where he had lived, and what was, or had been, his employment; to which he thus answered: that about two years ago he had lived at Long Sutton, in Lincolnshire, and was by trade a butcher; that his father then lived at Long Sutton, and his sister kept his father's house there; but he, having contracted a great many debts, for sheep that proved rotten, so that he was not able to pay for them, he was therefore obliged to abscond and come to live in Yorkshire.

Upon this confession the justices thought it necessary to send a messenger into Lincolnshire to examine into the truth of it, and accordingly ordered Mr Appleton, Clerk of the Peace, to write a letter to Long Sutton, and therein relate the whole affair. This letter they sent by a special messenger, who gave it to Mr Delamere, a Justice of the Peace, who lived at the place. The answer returned by Mr Delamere was as follows. The said John Palmer had lived there about three-quarters of a year, and was accused before him of sheep-stealing; whereupon he issued out his warrant against him, who was thereupon apprehended, but made his escape from the constable. That, soon after his

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escape, Mr Delamere had several informations lodged before him against the said Palmer for horse-stealing ; and that Palmer's father did not live at Long Sutton, neither did he know where he lived, therefore desired Palmer might be secured, and he would make further inquiry about the horse so stolen, and would bind over some persons to prosecute at the next assizes.

Mr Appleton, on the receipt of this letter, immediately wrote to Mr Crowley, who, the next morning, came to Beverley, and, understanding what a villain Palmer was, he did not think it safe he should stay in the house of correction, and therefore he was again required to find sureties, he not being able to do which, his commitment was made to York Castle, and accordingly he was sent the same morning, 16th of October, 1738, to the said prison, handcuffed and guarded. After he had been a prisoner in York Castle about four months he was discovered to be Richard Turpin, the famous Essex robber.

On the 22nd of March, 1739, he was tried at York Assizes, before Sir William Chapple, Knight, one of the Judges of the King's Bench, on two indictments for horse-stealing, and on full evidence was convicted and condemned. After which, to prove that this Palmer was Richard Turpin, the noted highwayman, Mr James Smith and Mr Edward Seward, being called upon to give their evidence, deposed as follows :—

First, Mr James Smith, being sworn, deposed that he had known the prisoner at the bar ever since he was a child ; that his name was Richard Turpin, and that he was born at Hampstead, in Essex ; that he knew his father and all his relations.

Mr Seward said : “ I know the prisoner at the bar to be Dick Turpin, the son of John Turpin, who keeps the Bell, at Hampstead. When I spoke to him at the castle I knew him again, and he confessed he knew me.”

After his conviction he was as jovial, as merry and as frolicsome as if he had been perfectly at liberty and assured of a hundred years of prosperity to come.

THOMAS LYMPUS

When it was spread abroad that he was the Turpin who had rendered himself so notorious for his robberies in the southern parts of England, abundance of people from all parts resorted daily to see him.

The morning before his execution he gave three pounds, ten shillings amongst five men who were to follow the cart as mourners, with hat-bands and gloves to several persons more. He also left a gold ring and two pairs of shoes and clogs to a married woman at Brough that he was acquainted with, though he, at the same time, acknowledged he had a wife and child of his own.

He was carried in a cart to the place of execution, at York, on Saturday, 7th of April, 1739. He behaved himself with amazing assurance and bowed to the spectators as he passed. It was remarked that, as he mounted the ladder, his right leg trembled; on which he stamped it down with an air, and with undaunted courage looked round about him; and after speaking half-an-hour to the topsman threw himself off the ladder, and expired in about five minutes.

THOMAS LYMPUS

*Executed near Wells, in Somersetshire, 21st of September,
1739, for robbing the Mail*

FROM serving as a messenger some years to the General Post Office, this man formed the dangerous resolution of robbing the mails. At that time the vast property in circulation by means of the post was not, as at present, secured from being plundered by any lurking thief upon the road.

On the 21st of February, 1738, this public plunderer began his depredations by stopping the post-boy bringing the Bath and Bristol mails, about seven o'clock in the evening, at the end of Sunning Lane, two miles north of Reading, in Berkshire.

For the apprehension of the robber the Postmaster-General offered a reward of two hundred pounds, over and

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above the reward by Act of Parliament for apprehending highwaymen; or if any accomplice in the said robbery should make a discovery of the person who committed the fact, such accomplice should be entitled to the reward of two hundred pounds, and also receive his Majesty's most gracious pardon. The advertisement described the robber to be a middle-sized man, wearing a great riding-coat, with a white velvet or plush cape.

No sooner had Lympus rifled the bags of their most valuable contents than he determined upon attempting to make his escape to France. For this purpose he hastened to the nearest seaport, and actually landed there, but not before the officers of justice got information of his flight. They pursued him to France, and demanded him to be delivered up to them as a national robber; but on flying to the sanctuary of the Church, and declaring himself a Roman Catholic, he received protection, and for a while evaded the official laws of his own country.

There is ever to be found in such as fly for a heinous crime, after some time passed abroad in safety, a desire to return, which in vain they struggle to suppress. So it was in some measure with T. Lympus, who could not rest with his booty in France, but returned in a short time for further plunder, and immediately committed another mail robbery, for which he was apprehended and brought to trial.

It appeared by the evidence of the post-boy that he was stopped by the prisoner on horseback between the towns of Crewkerne and Sherborne, who compelled him to dismount, then bound him hand and foot, and rode off with the mail, containing twenty-four bags, from as many post towns.

Having taken out the bank-notes, he again contemplated an escape to France, and for that purpose again embarked; but the winds were no longer propitious to his hopes, for the vessel was driven back, and obliged to put into Dartmouth. Here he offered one of the stolen notes in payment, endorsed by one Follet, of Topsham, and it being described

THOMAS BARKWITH

in the account of the robbery he was suspected of being the robber. Apprehending himself to be in danger he immediately decamped, making the best of his way towards Kingsbridge; but he was pursued by seven men, who took him on a warrant being granted for that purpose. He was convicted of this robbery, and was executed on the top of Dunkit Hill, within a mile of Wells, in Somersetshire.

THOMAS BARKWITH

An accomplished Scholar and Linguist, who was executed at Tyburn, 21st of December, 1739, for Robbery

THIS unfortunate young gentleman was the descendant of a respectable family in the Isle of Ely. At a very early period of life he was observed to possess a strength of understanding greatly beyond what could be expected at his years, and this determined his father to add to such extraordinary gifts of nature the advantages of a liberal education; nor was the necessary attention omitted to impress upon his mind a just idea of the principles of religion and the absolute necessity of practical virtue.

Before the young gentleman had arrived at his fourteenth year he attained to a great proficiency in the Greek, Latin, French and Italian languages, and he afforded an indisputable proof of the depth of his penetration and the brilliancy of his fancy in the production of a variety of poetical and prose essays. His figure was pleasing, and improved by a graceful deportment; his manner of address was insinuating, and he excelled in the art of conversation.

Soon after he had passed his fourteenth year he received an invitation to visit an aunt residing in the metropolis. He had not been many days at this lady's house before he became conspicuous throughout the whole circle of her acquaintance equally on the score of his mental powers and personal qualifications; and he was dissuaded by his friends from returning into the country, it being their unanimous opinion that London was, of all others, the place where

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opportunities would be most likely to occur which the youth might improve to the advancement of his fortune.

A short time after his arrival in the metropolis he procured a recommendation to a Master in Chancery of high reputation and extensive practice; and this gentleman appointed him to the superintendence of that department of his business which related to money matters. In this office he acquitted himself entirely to the satisfaction of his employer, who considered him as a youth in whom he might safely repose an unlimited confidence. He possessed the particular esteem of all those who had the happiness of his acquaintance; and it was their common opinion that his fine talents and great capacity for business could not fail to introduce him to some considerable station in life.

The gentleman in whose service Barkwith had engaged, being under the necessity of going into Wales on some business respecting an estate there, commissioned Barkwith to receive the rents of a number of houses in London.

In the neighbourhood of the solicitor lived a young lady of whom Barkwith had for some time been passionately enamoured, and immediately upon the departure of the former for Wales he determined to avail himself of the first opportunity of making a declaration of honourable love.

Though the young lady did not mean to unite herself in marriage with Mr Barkwith, yet she encouraged his addresses; and to this disingenuous conduct is to be attributed the fatal reverse of his fortune from the most flattering prospect of acquiring a respectable situation in the world to the dreadful event of suffering an ignominious death at Tyburn.

So entirely was his attention engrossed by the object of his love that his master's most important business was wholly neglected, and he appeared to have no object in view but that of ingratiating himself in the esteem of his mistress; to gratify whose extravagance and vanity he engaged in expenses greatly disproportioned to his income, by making her valuable presents and accompanying her to

THOMAS BARKWITH

the theatres, balls, assemblies and other places of public entertainment.

Upon the return of the solicitor he found the affairs which he had entrusted to Barkwith in a very embarrassed situation, and upon searching into the cause of this unexpected and alarming circumstance it was discovered that the infatuated youth had embezzled a considerable sum. The gentleman, having made a particular inquiry into the conduct of Barkwith, received such information as left but little hopes of his reformation; and therefore he, though reluctantly, yielded to the dictates of prudence, and resolved to employ him no longer.

Barkwith now hired chambers, in order to transact law business on his own account; but as he had not been admitted an attorney he was under the necessity of acting under the sanction of another person's name; whence it may be concluded that his practice was not very extensive. He might, however, by a proper attention to his business, and a moderate economy in his expenses, have retrieved his affairs in a short time; but, unhappily, his intercourse with the young lady was still continued, and he thought no sacrifice too great for convincing her of the ardour of his affection.

He resided at his chambers about six months, when his creditors became exceedingly importunate for him immediately to discharge their several demands. His necessities were so pressing as to drive him almost to desperation. He took horse on the morning of the 13th of November, pretending that he was going to Denham, in Buckinghamshire, in order to transact some important business in relation to an estate which was to devolve to a young lady, then in her minority. It is not now known whether he went to Denham; but about four o'clock in the afternoon he stopped a coach upon Hounslow Heath, and robbed a gentleman who was in the vehicle of a sum in silver not amounting to twenty shillings.

In a short time a horseman came up, who was informed by the coachman that his master had been robbed by

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Barkwith, who was yet in sight. The horseman immediately rode to an adjacent farmhouse, where he procured pistols, and persuaded a person to accompany him in search of the highwayman, who after a long chase surrendered, saying to the people who surrounded him that he was a gentleman heavily oppressed with misfortunes, and supplicating in the most pathetic terms that they would favour his escape; but his entreaties had no effect.

He was properly secured during that night, and the next morning conducted before a magistrate for examination. He was ordered to London, where he was re-examined, and then committed to Newgate.

He was tried at the ensuing sessions at the Old Bailey, and condemned to suffer death. He was conveyed to Tyburn on the 21st of December, 1739.

MARY YOUNG *ALIAS* JENNY DIVER

The Head of a Gang of Thieves of every Description.

Executed at Tyburn, 18th of March, 1740

MARY YOUNG was born in the north of Ireland. At about ten years of age she was taken into the family of an ancient gentlewoman, and soon after she had arrived at her fifteenth year a young man-servant to a gentleman who lived in the same neighbourhood made pretensions of love to her. She had no strong prepossession in favour of the young man, but, determining to make his passion subservient to the purpose she had conceived, promised to marry him on condition of his taking her to London. He joyfully embraced this proposal, and immediately engaged for a passage in a vessel bound for Liverpool.

A short time before the vessel was to sail, the young man robbed his master of a gold watch and eighty guineas, and then joined the companion of his flight, who was already on board the ship, vainly imagining that his infamously acquired booty would contribute to the happiness he should enjoy with his expected bride. The ship arrived at the

MARY YOUNG *ALIAS* JENNY DIVER

destined port in two days ; and Mary being indisposed, in consequence of her voyage, her companion hired a lodging in the least-frequented part of the town, where they lived a short time in the character of man and wife.

Mary being restored to health, they agreed for a passage in a wagon that was to set out for London in a few days. On the day preceding that fixed for their departure they accidentally called at a public-house, and the man being observed by a messenger dispatched in pursuit of him from Ireland, he was immediately taken into custody. He being committed to prison, Mary sent him all his clothes and part of the money she had received from him, and the next day took her place in the wagon for London. In a short time her companion was sent to Ireland, where he was tried, and condemned to suffer death ; but his sentence was changed to that of transportation.

Soon after her arrival in London, Mary contracted an acquaintance with one of her countrywomen, named Anne Murphy, by whom she was invited to partake of a lodging in Long Acre. Murphy intimated to her that she could introduce her to a mode of life that would prove exceedingly lucrative ; adding, that the most profound secrecy was required. In the evening Murphy introduced her to a number of men and women, assembled in a kind of club, near St Giles's. These people gained their living by cutting off women's pockets and stealing watches, etc., from men in the avenues of the theatres, and at other places of public resort ; and on the recommendation of Murphy they admitted Mary a member of the society.

After Mary's admission they dispersed, in order to pursue their illegal occupation, and the booty obtained that night consisted of eighty pounds in cash and a valuable gold watch. As Mary was not yet acquainted with the art of thieving, she was not admitted to an equal share of the night's produce ; but it was agreed that she should have ten guineas. She now regularly applied two hours every day in qualifying herself for an expert thief, by attending to the instructions of experienced practitioners ; and in a

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short time she was distinguished as the most ingenious and successful adventurer of the whole gang.

In a few months our heroine became so expert in her profession as to acquire great consequence among her associates, who distinguished her by the appellation of "Jenny Diver"—on account, as we conceive, of her remarkable dexterity.

Jenny, accompanied by one of her female accomplices, joined the crowd at the entrance of a place of worship in the Old Jewry, where a popular divine was to preach, and observing a young gentleman with a diamond ring on his finger she held out her hand, which he kindly received in order to assist her; and at this juncture she contrived to get possession of the ring without the knowledge of the owner; after which she slipped behind her companion and heard the gentleman say that as there was no probability of gaining admittance he would return. Upon his leaving the meeting he missed his ring, and mentioned his loss to the persons who were near him, adding that he suspected it to be stolen by a woman whom he had endeavoured to assist in the crowd; but as the thief was unknown she escaped.

The above robbery was considered as such an extraordinary proof of Jenny's superior address that her associates determined to allow her an equal share of all their booties, even though she was not present when they were obtained.

A short time after the above exploit she procured a pair of false hands and arms to be made, and concealing her real ones under her clothes she repaired on a Sunday evening to the place of worship above mentioned in a sedan-chair, one of the gang going before to procure a seat among the more genteel part of the congregation, and another attending in the character of a footman.

Jenny being seated between two elderly ladies, each of whom had a gold watch by her side, she conducted herself with seeming great devotion; but when the service was nearly concluded she seized the opportunity, when the ladies were standing up, of stealing their watches, which

MARY YOUNG *ALIAS* JENNY DIVER

she delivered to an accomplice in an adjoining pew. Flushed with the success of this adventure, our heroine determined to pursue her good fortune ; and as another sermon was to be preached the same evening she adjourned to an adjacent public-house, and, having entirely changed her dress, she returned to the meeting, where she had not remained long before she picked a gentleman's pocket of a gold watch, with which she escaped unsuspected.

Her accomplices also were industrious and successful ; for, on a division of the booty obtained this evening, they each received thirty guineas. Jenny had now obtained an ascendancy over the whole gang, who, conscious of her superior skill in the arts of thieving, came to a resolution of yielding an exact obedience to her directions.

Jenny, attended by an accomplice, as a footman, went towards St James's Park on a day when the King was going to the House of Lords, and there being a great number of persons between the Park and Spring Gardens she purposely slipped down, and was instantly surrounded by many of both sexes, who were emulous to afford her assistance ; but, affecting to be in violent pain, she intimated to them that she was desirous of remaining on the ground till she should be somewhat recovered. As she expected, the crowd increased, and her pretended footman and a female accomplice were so industrious as to obtain two diamond girdle-buckles, a gold watch, a gold snuff-box and two purses, containing together upwards of forty guineas.

Two of the gang being confined to their lodgings by illness, Jenny and the man with whom she cohabited generally went in company in search of adventures. They went together to Burr Street, Wapping, and, observing a genteel house, the man, who acted as Jenny's footman, knocked at the door, and saying that his mistress was on a sudden taken extremely ill, begged she might be admitted. This was readily complied with, and, while the mistress of the house and her maid-servant were gone upstairs for such things as they imagined would afford relief to the supposed sick woman, she opened a drawer and stole sixty guineas ; and

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after this, while the mistress was holding a smelling-bottle to her nose, she picked her pocket of a purse, which, however, did not contain money to any considerable amount. In the meantime the pretended footman, who had been ordered into the kitchen, stole six silver tablespoons, a pepper-box and a salt-cellar. Jenny, pretending to be somewhat recovered, expressed the most grateful acknowledgments to the lady, and, saying she was the wife of a capital merchant in Thames Street, invited her in the most pressing terms to dinner on an appointed day, and then went away in a hackney-coach, which by her order had been called to the door by her pretended servant.

She practised a variety of felonies of a similar nature in different parts of the metropolis and its environs. On one occasion, as Jenny and an accomplice, in the character of a footman, were walking through Change Alley, she picked a gentleman's pocket of a bank-note for two hundred pounds.

Jenny and her gang had now become so notorious a pest to society that they judged it necessary to leave the metropolis, where they were apprehensive they could not long remain concealed from justice. They practised a variety of stratagems with great success in different parts of the country; but, upon revisiting London, Jenny was committed to Newgate on a charge of having picked a gentleman's pocket, for which she was sentenced to transportation.

She remained in the above prison nearly four months, during which time she employed a considerable sum in the purchase of stolen effects. When she went on board the transport vessel she shipped a quantity of goods, nearly sufficient to load a wagon. The property she possessed ensured her great respect, and every possible convenience and accommodation during the voyage; and on her arrival in Virginia she disposed of her goods, and for some time lived in great splendour and elegance.

She soon found that America was a country where she could expect but little emolument from the practices she had so successfully followed in England; and therefore she

MARY YOUNG *ALIAS* JENNY DIVER

employed every art that she was mistress of to ingratiate herself in the esteem of a young gentleman who was preparing to embark on board a vessel bound for the Port of London. He became much enamoured of her, and brought her to England; but while the ship lay at Gravesend she robbed him of all the property she could get into her possession.

She now travelled through several parts of the country, and by her usual wicked practices obtained many considerable sums. At length she returned to London, but was not able to find her former accomplices.

She now frequented the Royal Exchange, the theatres, London Bridge and other places of public resort, and committed innumerable depredations on the public. Being detected in picking a gentleman's pocket upon London Bridge, she was taken before a magistrate, to whom she declared that her name was Jane Webb, and by that appellation she was committed to Newgate. She was arraigned for privately stealing, and pronounced guilty. The property being valued at less than one shilling, she was sentenced to transportation.

A twelvemonth had not elapsed before she returned from transportation a second time, and on her arrival in London she renewed her former practices.

A lady going from Sherborne Lane to Walbrook was accosted by a man, who took her hand as if to assist her in crossing some planks that were placed over the channel for the convenience of passengers; but he squeezed her fingers with so much force as to give her great pain, and in the meantime Jenny picked her pocket of thirteen shillings and a penny. The gentlewoman, conscious of being robbed, seized the thief by the gown, and she was immediately conducted to the computer. She was examined the next day by the Lord Mayor, who committed her to Newgate in order for trial.

At the ensuing sessions at the Old Bailey she was tried on an indictment for privately stealing, and the jury brought in the verdict "Guilty"; in consequence of which she

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received sentence of death. She was conveyed to Tyburn in a mourning-coach, being attended by a clergyman, to whom she declared her firm belief in all the principles of the Protestant religion. Her remains were, by her particular desire, interred in St Pancras's Churchyard.

ELIZABETH AND MARY BRANCH

*Mother and Daughter, executed at Iwelchester on the
3rd of May, 1740, for murdering a Girl*

THESE cruel women were born at Philips Norton, in Somersetshire. The mother was distinguished from her childhood by the cruelty of her disposition. She married a farmer, named Branch, but the husband soon found what an unfortunate choice he had made; for his wife no sooner came into possession of her matrimonial power than she began to exercise her tyranny on her servants, whom she treated with undeserved and unaccountable cruelty, frequently denying them the common necessities of life, and sometimes turning them out of doors at night in the midst of winter; but their wages in these cases were sent them by Mr Branch, who was as remarkable for his humanity and justice as his wife for the opposite qualities. Mary Branch, the daughter, was an exact resemblance of her mother in every part of her diabolical temper.

Mr Branch dying, and leaving an estate of about three hundred pounds a year, he was no sooner buried than all the servants quitted the family, determined not to live with so tyrannical a mistress; and her character became so notorious that she could obtain no servants but poor creatures who were put out by the parish, or casual vagrants who strolled the country.

It is needless to mention the particulars of the cruelties of this inhuman mother and daughter to their other servants, at whom they used to throw plates, knives and forks on any offence, real or supposed; we shall therefore proceed to an account of their trial and execution for the murder of Jane

ELIZABETH AND MARY BRANCH

Buttersworth, a poor girl, who had been placed with them by the parish officers.

At the assizes held at Taunton, in Somersetshire, in March, 1740, Elizabeth Branch and Mary, her daughter, were indicted for the wilful murder of Jane Buttersworth ; when the principal evidence against them was in substance as follows :

Ann Somers, the dairymaid, deposed that the deceased, having been sent for some yeast, and staying longer than was necessary, excused herself to her old mistress on her return by telling a lie ; on which the daughter struck her violently on the head with her fist, and pinched her ears. Then both of them threw her on the ground, and the daughter knelt on her neck, while the mother whipped her with twigs till the blood ran on the ground, and the daughter, taking off one of the girl's shoes, beat her with it in a cruel manner. The deceased cried for mercy, and after some struggle ran into the parlour, where they followed her, and beat her with broomsticks till she fell down senseless ; after which the daughter threw a pail of water on her, and used her with other circumstances of cruelty too gross to mention.

Somers now went out to milk her cows, and on her return, at the expiration of half-an-hour, found her mistress sitting by the fire and the girl lying dead on the floor ; but she observed that a clean cap had been put on her head since she went out, and that the blood had run through it. At night the body was privately buried.

This transaction, added to the character of the mistress, having raised a suspicion in the neighbourhood, a warrant was issued by the coroner to take up the body, and an inquest being made into the cause of the girl's death, Mr Salmon, a surgeon, declared that she had received several wounds, almost any one of which would have proved mortal. The jury found both prisoners guilty, and they were sentenced to die.

As the country people were violently enraged against them, they were conducted to the place of execution between three and four in the morning, attended only by the jailer and about half-a-dozen people, lest they should have been torn in pieces.

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When they came to the spot, it was found that the gibbet had been cut down ; on which a carpenter was sent for, who immediately put up another, and mother and daughter were executed before six o'clock, to the disappointment of thousands of people who came too late from all parts of the country to witness the death of two such unworthy wretches.

WILLIAM DUELL

Executed for Murder and came to Life again while being prepared for Dissection in Surgeons' Hall, 24th of November, 1740

WILLIAM DUELL was convicted of occasioning the death of Sarah Griffin, at Acton, by robbing and ill-treating her. Having suffered, 24th of November, 1740, at Tyburn, with Thomas Clock, William Meers, Margery Stanton and Eleanor Munoman (who had been convicted of several burglaries and felonies), his body was brought to Surgeons' Hall to be anatomised ; but after it was stripped and laid on the board, and one of the servants was washing it, in order to be cut, he perceived life in him, and found his breath to come quicker and quicker, on which a surgeon took some ounces of blood from him ; in two hours he was able to sit up in his chair, and in the evening was again committed to Newgate, and his sentence, which might be again inflicted, was changed to transportation.

CAPTAIN SAMUEL GOODERE, A FRATRICIDE ;
MATTHEW MAHONY AND CHARLES WHITE

Executed for the Murder of Sir John Dinely Goodere, Bart., at the Hot Wells, Bristol, 20th of April, 1741

SIR JOHN DINELY GOODERE succeeded his father, Sir Edward, in the possession of an estate of three thousand pounds a year, situated near Evesham, in Worcestershire. His brother, Samuel, was bred to the

GOODERE, MAHONY AND WHITE

sea, and at length was advanced to the rank of captain of a man-of-war.

Sir John married the daughter of a merchant and received twenty thousand pounds as a marriage portion. But mutual unhappiness was the consequence of this connection, for the husband was brutal in his manners, and the wife perhaps not strictly observant of the sacred vow she had taken : for she was too frequently visited by Sir Robert Jasen ; and, after recriminations between the married pair, Sir John brought an action in the Court of Common Pleas for criminal conversation, and five hundred pounds' damages were awarded by the jury.

Sir John's next step was to indict his lady for a conspiracy, and, a conviction following, she was fined and imprisoned a year in the King's Bench. He likewise petitioned for a divorce ; but, the matter being heard in the House of Lords, his petition was thrown out.

Sir John having no children, Captain Samuel Goodere formed very sanguine expectations of possessing the estate ; but finding that the brother had docked the entail in favour of his sister's children, the Captain sought the most diabolical means of revenge for the supposed injury.

While the Captain's vessel lay in the port of Bristol, Sir John went to that city on business ; and being engaged to dine with an attorney, named Smith, the Captain prevailed on the latter to permit him to make one of their company, under pretence of being reconciled to his brother. Mr Smith consented, and used his good offices to accommodate the difference, and a sincere reconciliation appeared to have taken place.

This visit was made on the 10th of January, 1741, and the Captain, having previously concerted his measures, brought some sailors on shore with him, and left them at a public-house, in waiting to seize the baronet in the evening.

Accordingly, when the company broke up, the Captain attended his brother through the streets, and when they came opposite the public-house the seamen ran out, seized Sir John, and conveyed him to a boat that had been

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appointed to wait for his reception. As soon as the victim was in the boat he said to his brother : " I know you have an intention to murder me, and if you are ready to do it, let me beg that it be done here without giving yourself the trouble to take me on board." To which the Captain said : " No, brother ; I am going to prevent your rotting on land ; but, however, I would have you make your peace with God this night."

Being put on board, Sir John appealed to the seamen for help ; but the Captain put a stop to any efforts they might have made to assist him, by saying he was a lunatic, and brought on board to prevent his committing an act of suicide.

White and Mahony now conveyed him to the purser's cabin, which the Captain guarded with a drawn sword, while the other villains attempted to strangle him with a handkerchief which they found in his pocket, the wretched victim crying out " Murder ! " and beseeching them not to kill him, and offering all he possessed as a compensation for his life.

As they could not strangle him with the handkerchief the Captain gave them a cord ; with which Mahony dispatched him, while White held his hands and trod on his stomach. The Captain now retired to his cabin, and on the murder being committed the perpetrators of it went to him and told him " the job was done " ; on which he gave them money, and bade them seek their safety in flight.

The attorney with whom the brothers had dined having heard of the commission of a murder, and knowing of the former animosity of the Captain to his brother, immediately conjectured who it was that had fallen a sacrifice ; on which he went to the Mayor of Bristol, who issued his warrant to the water-bailiff, who, going on board, found that the lieutenant and cooper had prudently confined the Captain to his cabin.

The offender, being brought on shore, was committed to Newgate, and Mahony and White, being taken a few hours afterwards, were lodged in the same prison. At the

HENRY COOK

sessions held at Bristol on the 26th of March, 1741, these offenders were brought to trial, and, being convicted on the fullest evidence, received sentence of death. They were hanged near the Hot Wells, Bristol, on the 20th of April, 1741, within view of the place where the ship lay when the murder was committed.

HENRY COOK

*Notorious Horse-Stealer and Highwayman, executed
at Tyburn, 16th of December, 1741*

HENRY COOK committed more robberies, singly, than Wild, Turpin or Hawke, and was long the terror of travellers on different roads, but particularly in Essex. The story of his career makes a long narrative of curious and daring exploits, with hairbreadth escapes, before he was taken. Cook was the son of creditable parents in Houndsditch, who, having given him a decent education, apprenticed him to a leather cutter, with whom he served his time, and then his father took the shop of a shoemaker at Stratford, in Essex, in which he placed his son. Having some knowledge of the shoemaking business, he was soon well established, and married a young woman at Stratford, by whom he had three children, before he commenced as highwayman. However, it was not long after his marriage before the associating with bad company and the neglect of his business involved him so far in debt that he was obliged to quit his house in apprehension of the bailiffs. He was afterwards obliged wholly to decline business, and having taken up goods in the name of his father he was ashamed to make application to him for relief in his distress.

Among the idle acquaintances that Cook had made at Stratford was an apothecary, named Young, who was concerned with him in robbing gardens and fishponds, and in stealing poultry. The persons robbed offered a reward for apprehending the offenders, and Cook having been known to sell fowls at Leadenhall Market a warrant was granted

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to take him into custody ; but, having notice of it, he concealed himself two months at the house of a relation at Grays, in Essex. During this retreat it was determined not to execute the warrant ; but Cook, learning that a bailiff at Stratford had vowed to arrest him if he could be found, sent the officer a letter, advising him to consult his own safety, for he would blow his brains out if he should meet him. This threat effectually intimidated the bailiff ; and Cook, having dissipated all his cash, went to Stratford, where he found a man so intimate with his wife that he became enraged in the highest degree, and taking several articles of furniture with him went to London and sold them. This being done, he went to the house of a relation in Shoreditch, where he was treated with civility while his money lasted ; but when that was nearly gone there was no further appearance of friendship ; and, being now driven to extremity, he went to Moorfields, where he purchased a pair of pistols, and having procured powder and ball went towards Newington, on his way to which he robbed a man of fifteen shillings, and returned to London.

Thus embarked on the highroad to destruction, he determined to continue his dangerous trade ; and on the following day went to Finchley Common, where he stopped a gentleman, the bridle of whose horse he seized, and ordered him to dismount on pain of death. The rider, complying, was robbed both of his money and horse ; but he offered the highwayman three guineas if he would send the horse to an inn at St Albans, which he promised to do ; but afterwards finding that he had a valuable acquisition in the beast he failed to restore him.

This robbery being committed, he crossed the country to Enfield Chase, and going to a public-house where he was known said that he wished to hide himself lest he should be arrested. Having continued here two days, he proceeded to Tottenham, where he robbed a gentleman of about six pounds, and leaving his horse at an inn in Bishopsgate Street he went to his kinsman's in Shoreditch, where he was interrogated respecting his possessing so much money ;

HENRY COOK

but he would give no satisfactory answer. On the following day he went on the St Albans Road, and having robbed the passengers of a stage-coach of eight pounds he went to Enfield Chase, to the house he had frequented before; but while he was there he read an advertisement in which his horse was so exactly described that he determined to abscond; on which he went to Hadley Common, near Barnet, where he robbed a gentleman, and taking his horse, gave the gentleman his own.

Soon after this he went to an inn at Mims, where he saw a gentleman whom he had formerly robbed, and was so terrified by the sight of the injured party that he ran to the stable, took his horse and galloped off with the utmost expedition. On the road between Mims and Barnet he was met by eight men on horseback, one of whom challenged the horse he rode, saying that a highwayman had stolen it from a gentleman of his acquaintance.

Our adventurer replied that he had bought the horse at the Bell, in Edmonton, of which he could give convincing proofs; on which the whole company determined to attend him to that place. But when he came near Edmonton he galloped up a lane, where he was followed by all the other parties; and finding himself in danger of being apprehended he faced his pursuers and, presenting a pistol, swore he would fire unless they retreated. Some countrymen coming up at this juncture, he must have been made prisoner, but, night advancing, he quitted his horse and took shelter in a wood.

When he thought he might safely leave his lurking-place he hastened to London, going to the house of his relation in Shoreditch, where he was challenged with having committed robberies on the highway; but nothing could be learned from the answers he gave. Having dissipated his present money, he went again upon Finchley Common. His late narrow escape, however, made such an impresssion on his mind that he suffered several persons to pass unattacked, but at length robbed an old man of his horse and five pounds, though not till after it was dark. Soon afterwards he met a

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gentleman, whom he obliged to change horses with him ; but in a few minutes the gentleman was stopped by the owner of the stolen horse, who said a highwayman had just robbed him of it. Enraged at this, the gentleman swore the place was infested with thieves ; however, he delivered the horse and walked to London.

Cook, riding to his old place of resort, near the Chase, remained there three days ; but, seeing the horse he had last stolen advertised, he rode off in fear of discovery, and had not proceeded far before he was seized by the owner of the horse, assisted by three other persons, who conducted him to Newgate. At the next Old Bailey sessions he was indicted for stealing this horse ; but acquitted, because the owner would not swear to his person.

Soon after his discharge he returned to his former practices, but, his affairs with his creditors having been by this time adjusted by his friends, he lived at Stratford with his wife, and committed his depredations chiefly in Epping Forest. Having acquired a booty of thirty pounds, he showed it to a journeyman he kept, named Taylor, and asked him how he might employ it to the best advantage in buying leather ; but Taylor, guessing how it had been obtained, offered to go partners with his master in committing robberies on the highway ; and the base contract was instantly made. They now stopped a great number of coaches on the borders of the Forest ; but acted with such an uncommon degree of caution that they were for a long time unsuspected. The neighbours being at length terrified by such repeated outrages on the public peace, a Captain Mawley took a place in the basket of the Colchester coach to make discoveries ; and, Cook and Taylor coming up to demand the money of the passengers, Taylor was shot through the head ; on which Cook ran to the Captain and robbed him of his money, on threats of instant death. The carriage driving on, Cook began to search his deceased companion for his money ; but on some of the neighbours coming up he retired behind a hedge to listen to their conversation ; and having found that some of them knew

HENRY COOK

the deceased, and intimated that he had been accompanied by Cook, he crossed the fields to London.

Having spent three days in riot and dissipation, he went to his relation in Shoreditch, whom he requested to go to Stratford to inquire the situation of affairs there. When his relation returned, he told him there were several warrants issued against him, and advised him to go to sea. This he promised to do, but instead thereof he bought a horse and rode to Brentwood, in Essex, where he heard little conversation but of Cook, the famous highwayman of Stratford; and on the next day he followed a coach from the inn where he had put up, and took about thirty pounds from the passengers.

Cook now connected himself with a gang of desperate highwaymen in London, in conjunction with whom he stopped a coach near Bow, in which were some young gentlemen from a boarding-school. A Mr Cruikshanks riding up at this instant, one of the gang demanded his money; but as he hesitated to deliver it, another of them knocked him down and killed him on the spot; after which the robbers went to a public-house near Hackney Marsh, and divided the spoils of the evening.

Oppressed in mind by contemplation of his crimes, and particularly by reflecting on the murder of Mr Cruikshanks, Cook went to St Albans, where he assumed a new name, and worked as a journeyman shoemaker for about three weeks, when, a highwayman being pursued through the town, the terrors of his conscience on the occasion were such, that he hastily left the shop and ran across the country towards Woburn, in Bedfordshire. On his way to Woburn he robbed a farmer of fifty pounds and his horse, and bade him sue the county. The farmer soon raised the hue-and-cry; but Cook escaped, and, riding as far as Birmingham, took lodgings at a public-house, and disposed of his horse. Cook had now taken the name of Stevens, and the landlord of the house where he lodged telling him that there was a shop to let, he took it, and entered into business as a shoemaker. He now hired one Mrs Barrett as his housekeeper, but she

NEWGATE CALENDAR

soon became his more intimate companion ; and accompanying him to horse-races, and other places of public diversion, his little money was soon dissipated. Thus situated, he told his housekeeper that he had an aunt in Hertfordshire, who allowed him a hundred per annum, which he received in quarterly payments ; and that he would go to her for his money. Under this pretence he left her, and went to Northampton, and from thence to Dunstable, near which place he robbed a farmer of his horse and sixteen pounds, and then rode to Daventry.

At this last place he met with a Manchester dealer going home from London, and, having spent the evening together, they travelled in company next day and dined at Coventry. Cook, having an intention of robbing his fellow-traveller, intimated that it would be proper to conceal their money, as they had a dangerous road to travel ; and, putting his own money into his boot, the other put a purse of gold into his side-pocket. Prosecuting their journey till they came to a cross-road, Cook demanded his companion's money, on pain of immediate death ; and having robbed him of thirty-five guineas he travelled immediately to Birmingham ; so Mrs Barrett imagined he had been supplied by his aunt, agreeable to the story he had told her.

He now carried on trade as usual ; but as often as he was distressed for cash he used to have recourse to the road, and recruited his pockets by robbing the stages. At length, a London trader, coming to Birmingham, asked Cook how long he had lived there, which terrified him so that he quitted the place, and travelled towards London, and near Highgate robbed a gentleman, named Zachary, of his horse and money. On his stolen horse he rode to Epping Forest on the following day ; and, having robbed a gentleman, returned to London by the way of Stratford, at which place he spoke to a number of his old acquaintances, but was not imprudent enough to quit his horse.

Going to a house he had frequented at Newington Green, he sent for his relation who lived near Shoreditch, who advised him to make his escape, or he would certainly be

HENRY COOK

taken into custody. On this he went to Mims; and on his relation visiting him Cook begged he would sell five watches for him; but the other declined it, recommending him to dispose of them himself in London. On the following evening, when it was almost dark, he rode towards town, and observing a chaise behind him permitted it to pass, and followed it to the descent of the hill towards Holloway. There were two gentlemen in the chaise, whose money Cook demanded; but instead of complying they drove on the faster; on which he fired and wounded one of them in the arm; but the report of the pistol bringing some people towards the spot he galloped off, and went to Mims, his old place of retreat. Coming to London next day to sell his watches, he was seen in Cheapside by a woman who knew him, and followed him to Norton Folgate, where, observing him to go into a public-house, she went and procured a constable, who took him into custody, and found on him five watches and about nine pounds in money.

On his examination before a magistrate, Mr Zachary, whom he had robbed near Highgate, swearing to the identity of his person, he was committed to Newgate; but not before he had offered to become evidence against some accomplices he pretended to have had; but this offer was rejected. He now formed a scheme to murder the keepers and to make his escape; but, being detected, he was confined to the cells, and, being brought to his trial at the Old Bailey, was capitally convicted.

After sentence of death he for some time affected a gaiety of behaviour; but when the warrant for his execution arrived he was so struck with the idea of his approaching fate that it occasioned convulsive fits, and he never afterwards recovered his health.

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JONATHAN BRADFORD

Executed at Oxford for a Murder he had contemplated but did not commit

JONATHAN BRADFORD kept an inn at the city of Oxford. A gentleman (Mr Hayes), attended by a man-servant, one evening put up at Bradford's house, and in the night the former was found murdered in his bed, and the landlord was apprehended on suspicion of having committed the crime.

The evidence given against him was to the following effect. Two gentlemen who had supped with Mr Hayes, and who retired at the same time to their respective chambers, being alarmed in the night with a noise in his room, and soon hearing groans as of a wounded man, got up in order to discover the cause, and found their landlord, with a dark lantern and a knife in his hand, in a state of astonishment and horror, over his dying guest, who almost instantly expired.

On this evidence the jury convicted Bradford, and he was executed.

The facts attending this dreadful tragedy were not fully brought to light until the deathbed confession of the real murderer, who was a servant.

Mr Hayes was a man of considerable property, and greatly respected. He had about him, when his sad destiny led him under the roof of Bradford, a considerable sum of money. The landlord, knowing this, determined to murder and rob him. For this horrid purpose he proceeded with a dark lantern and a carving-knife, intending to cut the throat of his guest, while yet sleeping; but what must have been his astonishment and confusion to find his victim already murdered by a servant!

The wicked and unworthy servant had also contemplated murdering his master, and had just committed the bloody deed, and secured his treasure, a moment before the landlord entered to commit the murder he had contemplated.

JOHN BODKIN, DOMINICK BODKIN AND OTHERS

*Executed in Ireland on 26th of March, 1742, for the Murder
of Eleven Persons*

OLIVER BODKIN, Esq., was a gentleman who possessed a good estate near Tuam, in Ireland. He had two sons, by two wives. The elder son, named John, to whom this narrative chiefly relates, was sent to Dublin to study the law; and the younger, who was about seven years of age, remained at home with his parents. The young student lived in a very dissipated manner at Dublin, and, soon quitting his studies, came and resided near his father's place of abode. The father allowed him a certain annual sum for his support; but, as he lived beyond his allowance, he demanded further assistance. The father, however, refusing to accede to his wishes, he determined upon a horrible revenge, and included his stepmother in his proposed scheme of vengeance, as he imagined that she had induced his father to refuse him any further aid.

Having engaged his cousin, Dominick Bodkin, his father's shepherd, John Hogan, and another ruffian of the name of Burke, to assist him in the intended murders, they went to the house of Mr Bodkin, senior, whose household consisted of four men and three women servants, exclusive of Mrs Bodkin and the younger son, and a gentleman named Lynch, who was at that time on a visit there. They found all the members of the family at supper on their arrival, and, having murdered them, they went into the kitchen, where they killed three servant-maids; and, finding the men in different parts of the house, they also sacrificed them to their brutal and unprovoked rage. The murder of eleven persons being thus perpetrated, they quitted the fatal spot; and when some persons from Tuam came the next morning to speak with Mr Bodkin on business they found the house open, and beheld the dead body of Mr Lynch, near which lay that of Mrs Bodkin, hacked and mangled in a shocking

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manner; and, at a small distance, her husband, with his throat cut, and the child lying dead across his breast. The throats of the maid-servants in the kitchen were all cut; and the men-servants in another room were also found murdered. The assassins had even been so wanton in their cruelties as to kill all the dogs and cats in the house. The neighbours being alarmed by such a singular instance of barbarity, a suspicion fell on John Bodkin; who, being taken into custody, confessed all the tragical circumstances above mentioned, and impeached his accomplices: on which the other offenders were taken into custody, and all of them were committed to the jail of Tuam.

When they were brought to trial John Bodkin (the parricide), Dominick Bodkin and John Hogan pleaded guilty, and they were all condemned and executed at Tuam, on the 26th of March, 1742. The head of the shepherd was fixed on Tuam market-house, and the bodies of the others gibbeted within sight of the house where the murders had been committed.

THOMAS LYELL AND LAWRENCE SYDNEY

*Swindlers, who cheated with Loaded Dice and were pilloried for
Fraud, 2nd of June, 1742*

IN April, 1740, these pests to society were committed to Newgate, charged on the oaths of several gentlemen of distinction, with cheating and defrauding them with false and loaded dice at the masquerade, on Thursday morning, about three o'clock, to the amount of four hundred pounds.

It also appeared, on their examination, which lasted from six o'clock in the morning till three in the afternoon, that they had cheated a number of other gentlemen of upward of four thousand pounds more. Nine pairs of dice were found upon the sharpers, and on being cut asunder they were all, except one, loaded—that is, to introduce a piece of lead in a

THOMAS LYELL AND LAWRENCE SYDNEY

direction into the die which, when thrown, will generally turn a number suited to the owner's game.¹

They were brought to the bar of the Old Bailey for these infamous practices, and after a long trial, in which such scenes

¹ The following evidence given in the Court of King's Bench, the 29th of November, 1796, will discover some of the tricks of this description of swindlers.

A cause came on before Lord Chief Justice Kenyon, on the statute against gaming, and one John Shepherd being called as a witness for the injured party, he swore that he saw hazard played at the gaming-house of the defendant in Leicester Street. Every person who was three times successful, paid the defendant a silver medal, which he purchased from him, on entering the house, at eight for a guinea, and he received six or seven of these in the course of an hour for the Box Hands, as it was called. The people who frequented this house always played for a considerable sum. Sometimes twenty or thirty pounds depended on a single throw of the dice. The witness remembered being once at the defendant's gaming-house, about three or four o'clock in the morning, when a gentleman came in very much in liquor. He seemed to have a great deal of money about him. The defendant said he had not intended to play, but now he would set to with this fellow. He then scraped a little wax with his finger off one of the candles, and put the dice together, so that they came seven every way. After doing this, he dropped them into the box and threw them out, and afterwards drew all the money away, saying he had won it. Seven was the main and he could not throw anything but seven. The young gentleman said he had not given him time to *bar*. A dispute arose between the defendant and him; it was referred to two or three persons round the table, and they gave it in favour of the defendant. The gentleman said he had lost upward of seventy pounds. The defendant said: "We have cleared him." The witness had seen a man pawn his watch and ring, in several instances, and once he saw a man pawn his coat and go away without it.

After the gaming-table was broken by the Bow Street officers, the defendant said it was too good a thing to be given up, and instantly got another table, large enough for twenty or thirty people. The frequenters of this house used to play till daylight, and on one or two occasions they played all the next day. This is what the defendant called "sticking to it rarely." The guests were furnished with wine and suppers gratis, from the funds of the partnership, in abundance. Sunday was a grand day. The witness had seen more than forty people there at a time. The table not being sufficient for the whole, half-a-crown used on such occasions to be given for a seat, and those behind looked over the backs of the others and betted.

The person above mentioned (whose name was Smith) who pawned his coat corroborated the above evidence; and added that he had seen a person, after he had lost all his money, throw off his coat, and go away, losing it also.

NEWGATE CALENDAR

of iniquity were discovered to have been committed by sharpers of this description as astonished the Court and jury, Lyell and Sydney were found guilty, and sentenced to be imprisoned one year, and during that time to be pilloried.

On the 12th of June, 1742, above two years after, Thomas Lyell and Lawrence Sydney, the principals of the gang, were brought out of Newgate and carried to the Haymarket, where a pillory had been erected to receive them, facing the Opera House—the scene of their depredations—amid the scoffs and taunts of an enraged populace.

ROBERT RAMSEY

*Highwayman, and a singular Cheat. Executed at Tyburn
on the 13th of June, 1742*

THIS offender was born near Grosvenor Square, and apprenticed to an apothecary, after being liberally educated at Westminster School. His master's circumstances becoming embarrassed, Ramsey left him and went into the service of another gentleman of the same profession.

He then became a professed gamester. The billiard and hazard tables engrossed his time, and his skill being great he often stripped his companions; yet the money he thus obtained he dissipated in the most extravagant manner.

Having made an acquaintance with one Carr, they singled out a clergyman who frequented the coffee-house they used as a proper object to impose upon; and having ingratiated themselves into his good opinion, Ramsey took the opportunity of Carr's absence to tell the clergyman that he had a secret of the utmost consequence to impart; and the clergyman having promised secrecy, the other said that Carr was in love with a young widow, who was very rich and inclined to marry him, but that the match was opposed by her relations.

He added that the lady herself was averse to being married at the Fleet, even if she could escape the vigilance of her relations so far as to reach that place. The clergyman

ROBERT RAMSEY

listening to the story, Ramsey offered him twenty guineas to marry the young couple, and it was agreed that the parties should meet at a tavern near the Royal Exchange on the following day.

Ramsey, having told Carr what had passed, went to the clergyman the next morning, and, observing that if the lady took her own footman he might be known, said he would disguise himself in livery and attend the priest. This being done, a hackney-coach was called for the clergyman, and, Ramsey getting up behind it, they drove to the tavern, where rich wines were called for, of which Ramsey urged the clergyman to drink so freely that he fell asleep, when Ramsey picked his pocket of his keys.

The gentleman, awaking, inquired for the couple that were to be married, on which Ramsey, calling for more wine, said he would go in search of them; but immediately calling a coach he went to the clergyman's lodgings and, producing the keys, said he had been sent by the gentleman for some papers in his cabinet. The landlady of the house, seeing the keys, permitted him to search for what he wanted; on which he stole a diamond ring, of the value of forty pounds, and about a hundred pounds in money, and carried off some papers.

This being done he returned to the clergyman, said that the young couple would attend in a short time, and desired him to order a genteel dinner; but this last injunction was unnecessary, for the parson had taken previous care of it; and while he was at dinner Ramsey said he would go and order a diamond and a plain ring, and would return immediately.

He had not been long absent when a jeweller brought the rings, which he said were for a baronet and his lady, who were coming to be married. The clergyman asked him to drink the healths of the young couple; and just at this juncture Ramsey came in and told the jeweller that he was instantly wanted at home, but that he must return without loss of time, as his master's arrival was immediately expected.

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The jeweller was no sooner gone than Ramsey, taking up the diamond ring, said that he had brought a wrong one, and he would go back and rectify the mistake. In the interim the jeweller, finding that he had not been wanted at home, began to suspect that some undue artifice had been used ; on which he hurried to the tavern, and thought himself happy to find that the parson had not decamped.

Having privately directed the waiter to procure a constable he charged the clergyman with defrauding him of the rings. The other was naturally astonished at such a charge ; but the jeweller insisted on taking him before a magistrate, where he related a tale that, some days before, those rings had been ordered by a man whom he supposed to be an accomplice of the person now charged. But the clergyman, being a man of fair character, sent for some reputable people to bail him ; while the jeweller returned home, cursing his ill fortune for the trick that had been put on him.

London being an unsafe place for Ramsey longer to reside in, he went to Chester, where he assumed the name of Johnson, dressed himself as a physician, and printed and dispersed handbills, giving an account of many patients whose disorders had yielded to his skill. By promising to cure the poor without expense, no person doubted either the character or abilities of Dr Johnson.

A young lady who was troubled with an asthma became one of his patients ; and Ramsey, presuming that she possessed a good fortune, insinuated himself so far into her good graces that she would have married him, but that her uncle, in whose hands her money was, happened to come to Chester at that juncture.

During this situation of affairs, while Ramsey was walking without the city, he happened to see the clergyman whom he had so much injured in London ; on which he hastily retired to a public-house in Chester, and sent a parson to Park Gate, to inquire when any ship would sail for Ireland : and the answer brought was that a vessel would sail that very night.

ROBERT FULLER

On receiving this intelligence, Ramsey went and drank tea with the young lady; and taking the opportunity of her absence from the room he opened a drawer, whence he took a diamond ring and fifty guineas out of eighty which were in a bag.

He then went to Dublin, and later came to the metropolis, where he found his younger brother, who had likewise supported himself by acts of dishonesty; and the two brothers agreed to act in concert. Having taken a previous survey of Mr Glyn's house, at the corner of Hatton Garden, the brothers broke into it in the night, and carried off a quantity of plate; but, handbills being immediately circulated, they were taken into custody while offering the plate for sale to a Jew in Duke's Place. The Lord Mayor, on examining the prisoners, admitted the younger brother an evidence against the elder.

At the next sessions at the Old Bailey it was an affecting scene to behold the one brother giving evidence against the other, who was capitally convicted and received sentence of death. At the place of execution Ramsey made an affecting address to the surrounding multitude; entreating the younger part of the audience to avoid gaming, as what would infallibly lead to destruction.

After the customary devotions on such melancholy occasions he was turned off, and the body, having hung the usual time, was conveyed in a hearse to Giltspur Street, and decently interred by his friends.

ROBERT FULLER

*Convicted of shooting Mr Bailey, June Sessions, 1743,
and pardoned because he was wrongly identified*

AT the sessions held at the Old Bailey in the month of May, 1743, Robert Fuller, of Harefield, in Middlesex, was indicted for shooting at Francis Bailey, with a gun loaded with powder and small stones, and demanding his money, with intent to rob him.

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Mr Bailey deposed that, as he was returning from Uxbridge Market, he saw a man near Harefield sitting on a stile, having a gun in his hand; that he jumped off the stile, seized the horse's bridle, clapped the gun to Mr Bailey's body, and threatened to shoot him. Mr Bailey said: "That will do you no good, nor me neither." He then put his hand repeatedly into Bailey's pocket; but the latter would not submit to be robbed, and rode off. Immediately on which, Fuller shot at him, and wounded him in the right arm, so as to break the bone in splinters; and many stones, and bits of the bone, were afterwards taken out of the arm: nor did the prosecutor recover of the wound till after languishing nearly twenty weeks. The prisoner, however, had not an opportunity of robbing Mr Bailey, as his horse took fright and ran away at the report of the gun.

The substance of Mr Bailey's further deposition was, that this happened about seven o'clock in the evening, on the 24th of February; but that, as it was a clear starlight night, he had a full view of the prisoner, whom he had known before.

Bailey was now asked if he had ever been examined before any Justice of the Peace in relation to the fact; to which he answered in the negative. He was then asked if he had never charged the crime on any other person except the prisoner, which he steadily denied having done.

In contradiction to which, a commitment was produced, in which Thomas Bowry was charged with assaulting Francis Bailey, with an intent to rob, and this Bowry was continued in custody, on the affidavit of Mr Mellish, a surgeon, that Mr Bailey was so ill of the wounds he had received that he could not come to London without danger of his life, but Bowry was discharged at the jail delivery at the end of the sessions for June, 1743.

The copy of Bowry's commitment was now read, and authenticated by Richard Akerman, clerk of the papers to his father, and then keeper of Newgate.

On this contradictory evidence the characters of both parties were inquired into, when that of the prosecutor

WILLIAM CHETWYND

appeared to be very fair, that of the prisoner rather doubtful.

Upon considering the whole matter, the jury gave a verdict that he was guilty, but on account of the circumstance above mentioned, relating to the commitment of Bowry for the same offence, on Bailey's oath, they recommended the prisoner in the court as a proper object of the Royal clemency, and he was accordingly pardoned.

WILLIAM CHETWYND

*A Curious Case of a Schoolboy who killed another Boy during
a Quarrel about a Cake, and was convicted of
Manslaughter, October, 1743*

THIS unfortunate young gentleman was placed at the academy in Soho Square, and at the same school was a youth named Thomas Rickets, then in the nineteenth year of his age.

At the sessions held in the Old Bailey in October, 1743, the above-named William Chetwynd, who was fifteen years of age, was indicted for the murder of Thomas Rickets, and was likewise indicted on the statute of stabbing.

Mr Chetwynd being in possession of a piece of cake, Rickets asked him for some of it, on which he gave him a small piece; but refusing to give him a second, which he desired, he cut off a piece for himself, and laid it on a bureau, while he went to lock up the chief part of the cake for his own use. In the interim Rickets took the cake which had been left on the bureau, and when Chetwynd returned and demanded it he refused to deliver it; on which a dispute arose, and Chetwynd, having still in his hand the knife with which he had cut the cake, wounded the other in the left side of the belly.

Hannah Humphreys, a servant in the house, coming at that time into the room, Rickets said that he was stabbed, and complained much of the pain that he felt from the wound. On which Humphreys said to Chetwynd: "You

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have done very well"; to which the latter replied: "If I have hurt him, I am very sorry for it."

The wounded youth, being carried to bed, languished three days under the hands of the surgeons, and then expired. In the interim Chetwynd, terrified at what had happened, quitted the school; but as soon as he heard of the death of Rickets he went to a magistrate, to abide the equitable decision of a verdict of his countrymen; and he was brought to his trial at the time and place above mentioned.

The counsel on behalf of the prisoner acknowledged the great candour of the gentlemen who were concerned for the prosecution, in their not endeavouring to aggravate the circumstances attending the offence. They also confessed the truth of all that had been sworn by the witnesses; but they insisted, on behalf of the accused party, that though his hand might have made an unhappy blow, his heart was innocent.

One of their arguments was urged in the following words: "Shall the young boy at the bar, who was doing a lawful act, be said to be guilty of murder? He was rescuing what was his own: the witnesses have told you, that after he had given Rickets a piece of cake, Rickets went to him for more; he denied to give it him, he had a right to keep his cake, and the other had no right to take it: and he had a right to retake it.

"There are cases in the books which make a difference between murder and manslaughter. If a man takes up a bar of iron, and throws it at another, it is murder: and the difference in the crime lies between the person's taking it up, and having it in his hand. Chetwynd had the knife in his hand, and upon that a provocation ensues, for he did not take the knife up; if he had, that would have shown an intention to do mischief. It may be doubted, whether or no when he had this knife in his hand for a lawful purpose, and in an instant struck the other, he considered he had the knife in his hand; for if in his passion he intended to strike with his hand, it is not a striking with the knife.

LYDIA ADLER

“That it was to be considered whether there was not evidence to except this case from the letter of the statute of James I.”

Mr Baron Reynolds and Mr Recorder, before whom the prisoner was tried, taking notice of the points of law that had arisen, the learned arguments of the counsel, and the many cases cited upon this occasion, were of opinion that it would be proper to have the facts found specially.

A special verdict was accordingly agreed on by all parties, and drawn up in the usual manner—viz. by giving a true state of the facts as they appeared in evidence, and concluding thus: “We find that the deceased was about the age of nineteen, and Mr Chetwynd about the age of fifteen; and that of this wound the deceased died on the 29th of the said September; but whether, upon the whole, the prisoner is guilty of all or any of the said indictment, the jurors submit to the judgment of the Court.”

In consequence of this special verdict the case was argued before the twelve judges, who deemed Chetwynd to have been guilty of manslaughter only; whereupon he was set at liberty, after being burned in the hand.

LYDIA ADLER

Burned in the Hand for killing her Husband, who had four Wives. June Sessions, Old Bailey, 1744

THIS woman was tried at the Old Bailey, at the sessions held in June, 1744, for the wilful murder of her husband, John Adler, by throwing him on the ground, kicking and stamping on his groin, and giving him thereby a mortal bruise, of which he languished in St Bartholomew's Hospital from the 11th till the 23rd of May, and then died; and she was again indicted on the coroner's inquest for manslaughter.

Hannah Adler, daughter of the deceased, swore that he told her that his wife had given him the wounds which afterwards occasioned his death.

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Benjamin Barton deposed that the deceased came to him, on the 11th of May, with a bloody handkerchief about his head, and asked him for a spare bed, saying : " This infernal fiend [meaning his wife] will be the death of me." But Barton, knowing the woman to be of a very turbulent disposition, refused to lodge the man. After this he visited him every other day during his illness, and he very often said : " I wish, Mr Barton, you would be so good as to get a warrant to secure this woman, for she will be the death of me "; and two hours before he died he inquired if such a warrant was procured ; and desired that Barton would see her brought to justice, which he promised he would, if it lay in his power.

Hannah Adler, being further questioned, said that her father died between twelve and one o'clock ; that about two hours and a half before he said : " I am a dead man, and this lady [the prisoner] has killed me." That after this he repeatedly declared that his wife was the person that had murdered him, and begged that she might be brought to justice. His last declaration was made only about ten minutes before he died.

Mr Godman, a surgeon, deposed that the husband died of a mortification, occasioned by a blow ; but acknowledged that the deceased had a rupture, and that such a blow as he had received would not have hurt a person in sound health.

The prisoner in her defence said that her husband had two wives besides her ; and that a quarrel happening between her and one of the wives, the husband endeavoured to part them, and in so doing fell down, and the other woman fell on him ; but that she herself never lifted hand or foot against him.

Joseph Steel deposed that the deceased had had four wives ; that he was kind to them all at the first, but afterwards used to beat them severely ; and that he had seen the prisoner and her husband frequently fight together.

The jury gave a verdict of manslaughter ; in consequence of which she was burned in the hand.

PATRICK BOURKE AND GEORGE ELLIS

*Executed at Tyburn, 20th of February, 1745, for
Sheep-Stealing*

BY an Act of Parliament passed in the fourteenth year of the reign of King George II., for the security of farmers and graziers, it is thus enacted :

“ If any person or persons, after the first day of May, 1741, shall feloniously drive away or in any manner feloniously steal any sheep, or shall wilfully kill one or more sheep, with intent to steal the whole or any part of the carcasses, the person or persons so offending shall suffer death, without benefit of clergy.”

Patrick Bourke and George Ellis were indicted at the sessions held at the Old Bailey in December, 1744, for killing fifteen ewe sheep, the property of John Messenger, of Kensington, with intention to steal part of the carcasses—to wit, the fat near the kidneys.

Mr Messenger deposed that he had lost fifteen ewes; that their throats were cut, their bellies ripped open, and the fat taken out; and likewise said that he had lost twenty-seven lambs, which were taken out of those ewes; and he deposed that the prisoners both confessed the crime before Sir Thomas Devil on the Tuesday following; and that Bourke acknowledged they sold the fat to a tallow-chandler, for forty-one shillings and twopence-halfpenny.

Bourke, in his defence, said that he was kept drunk by the constable in order to induce him to make a confession, but this not being credited by the jury, and there being other proofs of the fact having been acknowledged, they were capitally convicted, and received sentence of death. They were hanged at Tyburn, on 20th of February, 1745.

NEWGATE CALENDAR

MATTHEW HENDERSON

Executed in Oxford Street, 25th of February, 1746, for murdering his Mistress, Lady Dalrymple, who was angry because he trod on her Toe.

THIS offender was born at North Berwick, in Scotland, where he was educated in the liberal manner customary in that country.

Sir Hugh Dalrymple, being a Member of the British Parliament, took Henderson into his service when fourteen years of age, and brought him to London. Before he was nineteen years old he married one of his master's maids; but Sir Hugh, who had a great regard for him, did not dismiss him, though he was greatly chagrined at this circumstance.

Some few days before the commission of the murder, Sir Hugh, having occasion to go out of town for a month, summoned Henderson to assist in dressing him; and, while he was thus employed, Sir Hugh's lady going into the room, the servant casually trod on her toe. She said not a word on the occasion, but looked at him with a degree of rage that made him extremely uneasy.

When Sir Hugh had taken his leave she demanded of Henderson why he had trod on her toe; in answer to which he made many apologies, and ascribed the circumstance to mere accident; but she gave him a blow on the ear, and declared that she would dismiss him from her service.

Henderson said it would be unnecessary to turn him away, for he would go without compulsion; but, reflecting that her passion would soon subside, he continued in his place, and was used with as much kindness as if the accident had not taken place.

Offended by the insult that had been offered him, Henderson began to consider how he should be revenged, and at length came to the fatal resolution of murdering his mistress.

For the particulars of this barbarous deed we refer to his

MATTHEW HENDERSON

confession in Newgate, taken in writing by the ordinary, the day before his execution.

He said his mother had been dead several years, which he mentioned with satisfaction because, as she loved him tenderly, he believed this affair would certainly have broken her heart.

He had lived with his master five years—about three years in Scotland and two years in London—and declared no servant could be better used than he was, and that he never had the least dislike to the deceased, for that she was a lady of great humanity, and greatly respected by all her servants; and his master a most worthy gentleman. One night Mary Platt, the maid-servant, told him she would go and see her husband, and he said she might do as she pleased. She went, and took the key to let herself in again. He shut the door after her, and went and cleaned some plate in the kitchen. From thence he went up into the back-parlour, where he used to lie, and let down his bed, in order to go to sleep. He pulled off his shoes, and tied up his hair with his garter, and that moment the thought came into his head to kill his lady. He went downstairs into the kitchen, took a small iron cleaver, and went up to the first landing-place on the stairs, and after tarrying a minute or two came down, shocked at the crime he was about to perpetrate. He went up again as far as the first window, and the watchman was going—"past twelve o'clock." After the watchman had passed the door, he entered the room a second time, went to the bedside, undrew the curtains, and found she was fast asleep. He went twice from the bed to the door in great perplexity of mind, the deceased being still asleep. He continued in great agonies, but soon felt where she lay, and made twelve or fourteen motions with the cleaver before he struck her. He repeated his blows, and in struggling she fell out of bed next the window, and then he thought it was time to put her out of her misery, and struck her with all his might as she lay on the floor.

He then went into his bedchamber again, and sat down on his bed for about ten minutes, when it came into his head

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to rob the house. He again went into the deceased's bed-chamber, and took her pockets as they were hanging on the chair, and took a gold watch and two diamond rings out of the drawers, with several other things.

He was executed in Oxford Street, on 25th February, 1746.

MARY HAMILTON

*A Woman who was imprisoned and whipped for marrying
Fourteen Women, 1746*

POLYGAMY, or a man marrying two or more wives—and, vice versa, a woman marrying two or more husbands—is a crime frequently committed; but a woman marrying a woman according to the rites of the Established Church is something strange and unnatural. Yet did this woman, under the outward garb of a man, marry fourteen of her own sex!

At the Quarter Sessions held at Taunton, in Somersetshire, this woman was brought before the Court; but under what specific charge, or upon what penal statute she was indicted, we can neither trace by the mention of the circumstance, nor could we frame an indictment to meet the gross offence, because the law never contemplated a marriage among women. She was, however, tried, whether or not her case might have been cognisable, and Mary Price, the fourteenth wife, appeared in evidence (in such a case as this we must be pardoned for ambiguity) against her female husband. She swore that she was lawfully married to the prisoner, and that they bedded and lived together as man and wife for more than a quarter of a year; during all which time, so well did the impostor assume the character of man, she still actually believed she had married a fellow-creature of the right and proper sex.

The learned quorum of justices thus delivered their verdict: "That the he or she prisoner at the bar is an uncommon, notorious cheat, and we, the Court, do sentence her, or him, whichever he or she may be, to be imprisoned

LORD LOVAT

six months, and during that time to be whipped in the towns of Taunton, Glastonbury, Wells and Shipton Mallet, and to find security for good behaviour as long as they, the learned justices aforesaid, shall or may, in their wisdom and judgment, require." And Mary, the monopoliser of her own sex, was imprisoned and whipped accordingly, in the severity of the winter of the year 1746.

LORD LOVAT

*Beheaded for High Treason, at the Age of Eighty, on
9th of April, 1747*

LORD LOVAT, who in 1715 had been a supporter of the House of Hanover, in 1745 changed sides, and became a friend of the party which he had before opposed.

His career in life began in the year 1692, when he was appointed a captain in Lord Tullibardine's regiment, but he resigned his commission in order to prosecute his claim to be the Chief of the Frasers; in order to effect which he laid a scheme to get possession of the heiress of Lovat, who was about to be married to a son of Lord Salton. He raised a clan, who violently seized the young lord, and, erecting a gibbet, showed it to him and his father, threatening their instant deaths unless they relinquished the contract made for the heiress of Lovat. To this, fearing for their lives, they consented; but, still unable to get possession of the young lady, he seized the Dowager Lady Lovat in her own house, caused a priest to marry them against her consent, cut her stays open with his dirk, and, assisted by his ruffians, tore off her clothes, forced her into bed, to which he followed her, and then called his companions to witness the consummation of the outrageous marriage. For this breach of the peace he was indicted, but fled from justice; but he was nevertheless tried for rape, and for treason, in opposing the laws with an armed force; and sentence of outlawry was pronounced against him. Having fled to France, he turned Papist, ingratiated himself with the Pretender, and

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was rewarded by him with a commission ; but he was apprehended on the remonstrance of the English ambassador in Paris, and lodged in the Bastille, where, having remained some years, he procured his liberty by taking priests' orders, under colour of which he became a Jesuit in the College of St Omer.

In the first rebellion of 1715 he returned to Scotland, and, joining the King's troops, assisted them in seizing Inverness from the rebels ; for which service he got the title of Lovat, was appointed to command, and had other favours conferred upon him. In the rebellion of which we are now treating he turned sides and joined the Pretender, a step treacherous in the extreme. When taken, he was old, unwieldy and almost helpless ; although in that condition he had been possessed of infinite resources to assist the rebellion. He petitioned the Duke of Cumberland for mercy ; and, hoping to work upon his feelings, recapitulated his former services, the favours that he had received from the Duke's grandfather, King George I., and dwelt much upon his access to Court, saying he had carried him to whom he now sued for life in his arms and, when a baby, held him up while his grandsire fondled him.

On the 9th of March, 1747, however, he was taken from the Tower to Westminster Hall for trial, and, the evidence adduced clearly proving his guilt to be of no ordinary character, he was convicted. He was next day brought up for judgment, and sentence of death was pronounced.

That this sentence was not ill deserved appears from a speech of Lord Belhaven, delivered in the last Parliament held in Edinburgh, in 1706, in which his lordship, speaking of this nobleman, then Captain Fraser, on occasion of the Scots plot, commonly called Fraser's plot, says that " he deserved, if practicable, to have been hanged five several times, in five different places, and upon five different accounts at least : as having been notoriously a traitor to the Court of St James's, a traitor to the Court of St Germain's, a traitor to the Court of Versailles and a traitor to his own country of Scotland ; in being not only an avowed and restless enemy

LORD LOVAT

to the peace and quiet of its established government and constitution, both in Church and State, but likewise, a vile Proteus-like apostate and a seducer of others in point of religion, as the tide or wind changed; and, moreover, that (abstracted from all those, his multiplied acts of treason, abroad and at home) he deserved to be hanged as a condemned criminal, outlaw and fugitive, for the barbarous, cruel and most flagitious rape he had, with the assistance of some of his vile and abominable band of ruffians, violently committed on the body of a right honourable and virtuous lady, the widow of the late Lord Lovat, and sister of his Grace the late Duke of Atholl. Nay, so hardened was Captain Fraser, that he audaciously erected a gallows, and threatened to hang thereon one of the said lady's brothers and some other gentlemen of quality who accompanied him in going to rescue him out of that criminal's cruel hand."

On the morning fixed for his execution, 9th of April, 1747, Lord Lovat, who was now in his eightieth year, and very large and unwieldy in his person, awoke at about three o'clock, and was heard to pray with great devotion. At five o'clock he arose, and asked for a glass of wine-and-water, and at eight o'clock he desired that his wig might be sent, that the barber might have time to comb it out genteelly, and he then provided himself with a purse to hold the money which he intended for the executioner. At about half-past nine o'clock he ate heartily of minced veal, and ordered that his friends might be provided with coffee and chocolate, and at eleven o'clock the sheriffs came to demand his body. He then requested his friends to retire while he said a short prayer; but he soon called them back, and said that he was ready.

When his lordship was going up the steps to the scaffold, assisted by two warders, he looked round, and, seeing so great a concourse of people, "God save us," says he, "why should there be such a bustle about taking off an old grey head, that cannot get up three steps without three bodies to support it?"

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Turning about, and observing one of his friends much dejected, he clapped him on the shoulder, saying : " Cheer up thy heart, man ! I am not afraid ; why should you be so ? " As soon as he came upon the scaffold he asked for the executioner, and presented him with ten guineas in a purse, and then, desiring to see the axe, he felt the edge and said he " believed it would do." Soon after, he rose from the chair which was placed for him and looked at the inscription on his coffin, and on sitting down again he repeated from Horace :

" Dulce et decorum est pro patria mori " ;

and afterwards from Ovid :

" Nam genus et proavos, et quæ non fecimus ipsi,
Vix ea nostra voco."

He then desired all the people to stand off, except his two warders, who supported his lordship while he said a prayer ; after which he called his solicitor and agent in Scotland, Mr W. Fraser, and, presenting his gold-headed cane, said, " I deliver you this cane in token of my sense of your faithful services, and of my committing to you all the power I have upon earth," and then embraced him. He also called for Mr James Fraser, and said : " My dear James, I am going to heaven ; but you must continue to crawl a little longer in this evil world." And, taking leave of both, he delivered his hat, wig and clothes to Mr William Fraser, desiring him to see that the executioner did not touch them. He ordered his cap to be put on, and, unloosing his neckcloth and the collar of his shirt, knelt down at the block, and pulled the cloth which was to receive his head close to him. But, being placed too near the block, the executioner desired him to remove a little farther back, which with the warders' assistance was immediately done ; and, his neck being properly placed, he told the executioner he would say a short prayer and then give the signal by dropping his handkerchief. In this posture he remained about half-a-minute, and then, on throwing his handkerchief on the floor,

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the executioner at one blow cut off his head, which was received in the cloth, and, with his body, was put into the coffin and carried in a hearse back to the Tower, where it was interred near the bodies of the other lords.

GEORGE LANCASTER

*Executed at Tyburn, 16th of November, 1747, for forging
a Seaman's Will, in order to rob his Wife and Child*

THIS offender was born in Hatton Garden, London, of respectable parents, who placed him with a reputable attorney, with whom he served part of his clerkship in the most regular manner; but, making very bad connections, his master requested his parents to take him home and send him to sea as the most likely means to prevent his ruin.

The parents, approving this hint, persuaded the son to sail as captain's clerk on board a ship in the Royal Navy; and he continued some years in this station.

He came to London when his ship was paid off, and having received a considerable sum of money dissipated the whole in houses of ill-fame. His father was now dead; but his mother, with a fondness very natural, but which perhaps contributed to his ruin, supplied his extravagances till she was very much reduced in her circumstances; and in the meantime the son borrowed money in her name of anyone who would trust him; but at length his character being lost, and his mother totally impoverished, he determined on the commission of the crime for which his life paid the forfeit.

A seaman, named Hugh Price, to whom thirty-six pounds were due for wages, died on board the *Dorchester* man-of-war, having made a will in favour of his wife and son, who lived near Whitehaven, in Cumberland. Lancaster, hearing of the death of Price, forged a will purporting to be his, and, carrying it to Doctors' Commons, obtained a probate of the will, in consequence of his swearing that he was the son of the above-mentioned Price.

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Being thus possessed of the probate, he went to a public-house, producing to the landlord a letter signed George Price, whom he averred was the son of the deceased, and had empowered him to dispose of his father's wages. The landlord, unacquainted with these matters, applied to a gentleman, who told him he might safely purchase if Lancaster could get the original ticket and would lodge the probate in his hands as a collateral security.

The publican mentioning this to Lancaster, the latter said he would procure the original ticket from Portsmouth; but at the expiration of four days he produced a forged ticket, which the landlord, on the advice of a friend, purchased for twenty-seven pounds.

About three months after this transaction, a clerk of the Navy Office called on the publican, and he showed him the ticket. He said he thought it a good one, but he would write to the agent at Portsmouth to inquire into the fact. The agent's answer was that Hugh Price's ticket in favour of his son George was still in the office; so that it was evident that Lancaster's ticket must be a forgery.

The publican then went to an attorney, who advised him to make a debt of the affair, and arrest Lancaster for the money. This being done, he was committed to the Poultry Compter, where he was informed that he should be set at liberty if his friends would make a subscription to raise the sum; but not having friends to assist him in this essential matter, the publican went to the Navy Office, where he informed the commissioners of the affair, and they ordered Lancaster to be prosecuted by their solicitor.

Lancaster's guilt being proved in the clearest manner on his trial, he was convicted, received sentence of death, and was executed at Tyburn, on 16th of November, 1747.

HENRY SIMMS.

The Extraordinary Career of a Youth, who was executed at Tyburn, 16th of November, 1747, after returning from Transportation, for Highway Robbery

HENRY SIMMS was born in the parish of St Martin's-in-the-Fields, London, and was soon a helpless orphan. His grandmother, who was a Dissenter, sent him first to a school kept by a clergyman, but as he frequently ran away she placed him at an academy in St James's parish, where he became proficient in writing and arithmetic, and was likewise a tolerable Latin and French scholar.

Before the boy had completed his tenth year he gave a specimen of his dishonest disposition. His grandmother taking him with her on a visit to a tradesman's house, he stole twenty shillings from the till in the shop, which being observed by the maid-servant, she informed her master; and, the money being found on the youth, he was severely punished.

He now began to lie from home at nights, and associated with the vilest of company, in the purlieu of St Giles's. His companions advising him to rob his grandmother, he stole seventeen pounds from her and, taking his best apparel, repaired to St Giles's, where his new acquaintances made him drunk, put him to bed, and then robbed him of his money and clothes. On his waking he covered himself with some rags he found in the room and, after strolling through the streets in search of the villains, went into an ale-house, the landlord of which, hearing his tale, interceded with his grandmother to take him again under her protection. To this, after some hesitation, she consented; and, buying a chain with a padlock, she had him fastened, during the daytime, to the kitchen grate, and at night he slept with a man who was directed to take care that he did not escape.

After a month of confinement he had his liberty granted him and new clothes purchased, with which he immediately went among some young thieves who were tossing up for

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money, in St Giles's. On the approach of night they took him to a brick-kiln near Tottenham Court Road, where they broiled some steaks, and supped in concert; and were soon joined by some women, who brought some geneva, with which the whole company regaled themselves.

Simms, falling asleep, was robbed of his clothes; and when the brickmakers came to work in the morning they found him in his shirt only. While they were conducting him towards town he was met by his grandmother's servant, who was in search of him, and conveyed him to her house. Notwithstanding his former behaviour the old lady received him kindly, and placed him with a breeches-maker. He having corrected him for his ill behaviour, he ran away, and taking his best clothes from his grandmother's house, in her absence, sold them to a Jew, and spent the money in extravagance.

The old gentlewoman now went to live at the house of Lady Stanhope, whither the graceless boy followed her, and being refused admittance he broke several of the windows. This in some measure compelled his grandmother to admit him; but that very night he robbed the house of as many things as produced him nine pounds, which he carried to a barn in Marylebone Fields, and spent among his dissolute companions. For this offence he was apprehended, and, after some hesitation, confessed where he had sold the effects. From this time his grandmother gave him up as incorrigible. Soon afterwards he was apprehended as a pickpocket, but he was discharged for want of evidence.

Simms now associated with the worst of company; but after a narrow escape on a charge of being concerned in sending a threatening letter to extort money, and two of his companions being transported for other offences, he seemed deterred from continuing his evil courses; and thereupon wrote to his grandmother, entreating her further protection. Still anxious to save him from destruction, she prevailed on a friend to take him into his house, where for some time he behaved regularly; but, getting among his

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old associates, they robbed a gentleman of his watch and money, and threw him into a ditch in Marylebone Fields; when only some persons accidentally coming up prevented his destruction.

Two more of Simms' companions being now transported, he hired himself to an innkeeper as a driver of a post-chaise; and after that lived as postilion to a nobleman, but was soon discharged on account of his irregular conduct. Having received some wages, he went again among the thieves, who dignified him with the title of "Gentleman Harry," on account of his presumed skill, and the gentility of his appearance. Simms now became intimately acquainted with a woman who lived with one of his accomplices, in revenge for which the fellow procured both him and the woman to be taken into custody on a charge of felony, and they were committed to Newgate; but, the Court paying no regard to the credibility of the witnesses, the prisoners were acquitted.

Soon after his discharge Simms robbed a gentleman of his watch and seventeen pounds on Blackheath, and likewise robbed a lady of a considerable sum near the same spot. Being followed to Lewisham, he was obliged to quit his horse, when he presented two pistols to his pursuers, by which he so intimidated them as to effect his escape, though with the loss of his horse.

Repairing to London he bought another horse, and travelling into Northamptonshire, and putting up at an inn at Towcester, learned that a military gentleman had hired a chaise for London; on which he followed the chaise the next morning, and kept up with it for several miles. At length the gentleman, observing him, said: "Don't ride so hard, sir, you'll soon ride away your whole estate"; to which Simms replied: "Indeed I shall not, for it lies in several counties"; and, instantly quitting his horse, he robbed the gentleman of one hundred and two guineas.

He now hastened to London, and, having dissipated his ill-acquired money at a gaming-table, rode out towards Hounslow, and meeting the postilion who had driven the above-mentioned gentleman in Northamptonshire gave him

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five shillings, begging he would take no notice of having seen him. A reward being at length offered for apprehending Simms, he entered on board a privateer; but being soon weary of a seafaring life he deserted, and enlisted for a soldier. While in this station he knocked out the eye of a woman at a house of ill-fame, for which he was apprehended and lodged in New Prison. Soon after this, Justice de Veil admitted him an evidence against some felons, his accomplices, who were transported, and Simms regained his liberty.

Being apprehended for robbing a baker's shop, he was convicted, and being sentenced to be transported was, accordingly, shipped on board one of the transport vessels. As this sailed round to the Isle of Wight he formed a plan for seizing the captain, and effecting an escape; but as a strict watch was kept on him it was not possible for him to carry this plan into execution. The ship arriving at Maryland, Simms was sold, for twelve guineas, but he found an early opportunity of deserting from the purchaser. Having learned that his master's horse was left tied to a gate at some distance from the dwelling-house, he privately decamped in the night, and rode thirty miles in four hours, through extremely bad roads: so powerfully was he impelled by his fears.

He now found himself by the seaside, and, turning the horse loose, he hailed a vessel just under sail, from which a boat was sent to bring him on board. As hands were very scarce, the captain offered him six guineas, which were readily accepted, to work his passage to England. There being at this time a war between England and France, the ship was taken by a French privateer, but soon afterwards ransomed; and Simms entered on board a man-of-war, where his diligence promoted him to the rank of a midshipman. But the ship had no sooner arrived at Plymouth than he quitted his duty and, travelling to Bristol, spent the little money he possessed in the most dissipated manner.

His next step was to enter himself on board a coasting vessel at Bristol, but he had not been long at sea before, on a dispute with the captain, he threatened to throw him overboard, and would have carried his threat into execution

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if the other seamen had not prevented him. Simms asked for his wages when the ship returned to port ; but on the captain threatening imprisonment for his ill behaviour at sea he decamped, with only eight shillings in his possession.

Fertile of contrivances, he borrowed a bridle and saddle, and having stolen a horse, in a field near the city, he went once more on the highway, and taking the road to London robbed the passengers in the Bristol coach, those in another carriage, and a single lady and gentleman, and repaired to London with the booty he had acquired.

Having put up the stolen horse at an inn in Whitechapel, and soon afterwards seeing it advertised, he was afraid to fetch it : on which he stole another horse ; but as he was riding through Tyburn Turnpike, the keeper, knowing the horse, brought the rider to the ground. Hereupon Simms presented a pistol, and threatened the man with instant death if he presumed to detain him. By this daring mode of proceeding he obtained his liberty, and, having made a tour round the fields, he entered London by another road. On the following day he went to Kingston-upon-Thames, where he stole a horse, and then robbed several people on his return to London ; and the day afterwards robbed seven farmers of eighteen pounds. His next depredations were in Epping Forest, where he committed five robberies in one day, but soon spent what he thus gained among women of ill-fame. Thinking it unsafe to remain longer in London, he set out with a view of going to Ireland ; but had ridden only to Barnet when he crossed the country to Harrow-on-the-Hill, where he robbed a gentleman, named Sleep, of his money and watch, and would have taken his wig, but the other said it was of value, and he hoped, as it was cold weather, his health might not be endangered by being deprived of it. The robber threatened Mr Sleep's life unless he would swear never to take any notice of the affair ; but this the gentleman absolutely refused. Hereupon Simms said that if he had not robbed him, two other persons would ; and told him to say " Thomas " if he should meet any people on horseback.

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Soon after this, Mr Sleep, meeting two men whom he presumed to be accomplices of the highwayman, cried out "Thomas!"—but the travellers paying no regard to him he was confirmed in his suspicions, and rode after them; and on his arrival at Hoddesdon Green he found several other persons, all of them in pursuit of the highwayman.

In the meantime Simms rode forward, and robbed the St Albans stage; after which he went as far as Hockliffe; but, being now greatly fatigued, he fell asleep in the kitchen of an inn, whither he was pursued by some light horsemen from St Albans, who took him into custody. Being confined for that night, he was carried in the morning before a magistrate, who committed him to Bedford Jail. By an unaccountable neglect his pistol had not been taken from him, and on his way to prison he attempted to shoot one of his guards; but the pistol missing fire, his hands were tied behind him; and when he arrived at the prison he was fastened to the floor, with an iron collar round his neck. Being removed to London, by a writ of habeas corpus, he was lodged in Newgate, where he was visited, from motives of curiosity, by numbers of people, whom he amused with a narrative of his having been employed to shoot the King.

On this he was examined before the Duke of Newcastle, then Secretary of State; but, his whole story bearing evident marks of a fiction, he was remanded to Newgate, to take his trial at the ensuing Old Bailey sessions. Ten indictments were preferred against him; but, being convicted for the robbery of Mr Sleep, it was not thought necessary to arraign him on any other of the indictments.

After conviction he behaved with great unconcern, and in some instances with insolence. Having given a fellow-prisoner a violent blow, he was chained to the floor. He appeared shocked when the warrant for his execution arrived; but soon resumed his former indifference, and continued it even to the moment of execution, when he behaved in the most thoughtless manner.

He was hanged at Tyburn, on the 16th of November, 1747.

WILLIAM YORK

"The Boy Murderer," convicted of the Murder of another Child in the Poorhouse of Eyke, in Suffolk, May, 1748

THIS sinner was but just turned ten years of age when he committed the dreadful crime. He was a pauper in the poorhouse belonging to the parish of Eyke, in Suffolk, and was committed, on the coroner's inquest, to Ipswich Jail for the murder of Susan Mahew, another child, of five years of age, who had been his bedfellow. The following is his confession, taken and attested by a Justice of the Peace, and which was, in part, proved on his trial, with many corroborating circumstances of his guilt.

He said that a trifling quarrel happening between them, on the 13th of May, 1748, about ten in the morning, he struck her with his open hand, and made her cry. That she going out of the house to the dunghill, opposite to the door, he followed her with a hook in his hand, with an intent to kill her; but before he came up to her he set down the hook, and went into the house for a knife; he then came out again, took hold of the girl's left hand, and cut her wrist all round and to the bone, with his knife, and then threw her down, and cut her to the bone just above the elbow of the same arm. That after this he set his foot upon her stomach, and cut her right arm round about, and to the bone, both on the wrist and above the elbow. That he then thought she would not die, and therefore took the hook and cut her left thigh to the bone; and, observing she was not dead yet, his next care was to conceal the murder. For this purpose he filled a pail with water at a ditch, and washed the blood off the child's body, buried it in the dunghill, together with the blood that was spilt upon the ground, and made the dunghill as smooth as he could; afterwards he washed the knife and hook, and carried them into the house, washed the blood off his own clothes, hid the child's clothes in an old chamber, and then came down and got his breakfast.

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This "boy murderer" was found guilty, and sentence of death pronounced against him; but he was respited from time to time, and, on account of his tender years, was at length pardoned.

GEORGE COCK

A most Plausible Scoundrel, executed at Tyburn, 13th of June, 1748, for privately stealing

THIS artful rogue was born in the neighbourhood of Aldgate, and for seven or eight years lived as errand-boy and porter to several tradesmen, none of whom had reason to suspect that he purloined their property; but he was held by them in no esteem, on account of his being frequently intoxicated and associating with people of dissolute principles.

Having made pretensions of love to a maid-servant in the neighbourhood of Mayfair, she invited him to her master's house. He was punctual to the appointment, and during his stay treacherously stole a silver spoon of about twelve shillings' value.

Learning that a lady lived at Streatham whose son was abroad, he went to her house and informed her that he was lately arrived in England, and waited upon her by the desire of the young gentleman, to assure her of the continuance of his filial affection. He was invited to partake of the best provisions the house could afford, and entertained with great liberality, kindness and respect. After he had sufficiently refreshed himself, and secreted a large silver spoon in his pocket, he departed.

Upon gaining information that the father of a young gentleman of Bartholomew Lane was abroad, he went to the house and pretended to the youth that he was preparing to embark for the country in which his father resided; saying that, as he was acquainted with the old gentleman, he should be happy to deliver any message or letter, or execute any commission with which the son might think

GEORGE COCK

proper to charge him. His reception here was not less hospitable than that he experienced at Streatham, and he did not take leave till he had conveyed a silver cup into his pocket, with which he got off undiscovered. He sold the cup, and expended the money it produced in the most extravagant manner.

Cock went to the house of the captain of a trading vessel in Ratcliff Highway, whom he knew was at sea, expecting that he should be able to amuse his wife by some plausible pretences, and to obtain a booty before he left the house. He was informed that the captain's lady was not at home; but was invited into the house by her mother, who told him that she expected her daughter's return in a very short time. Being shown into the kitchen, he asked the maid-servant for some table-beer, and while she was gone to draw it he secreted a large silver tankard. Upon the maid's bringing the beer he drank heartily, and then, pretending that he had some business to transact which would not permit him to stay any longer, took leave, promising to return on the following day. He sold the tankard to a Jew.

He inquired of a servant-maid in Spitalfields whether there were not some women in that neighbourhood whose husbands were in foreign parts. The girl said the husbands of two or three of her master's neighbours were abroad, and asked the name of the person he desired to find. He said he had forgotten the name, but artfully added that he should remember it upon hearing it repeated; in consequence of which she mentioned some names, and upon his saying that one of them was that of the party he wanted the girl directed him to the house where the wife of his supposed friend resided. He told the woman that he was lately arrived in England, and by her husband's particular desire called to inform her of his being in perfect health when he embarked. He formed some trifling excuse for occasioning the woman to leave the apartment, and soon after her return he went away, taking with him a pint silver tankard and two silver tablespoons.

By the above, and other villainies of a similar nature, he

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gained a maintenance for several years; but it will now appear that, notwithstanding the art he employed in the pursuit of villainy, he at length fell a just victim to the insulted laws of his country.

Cock went to two ladies in Soho Square in one day, under the pretext of delivering messages from their husbands, who had been several years resident in foreign parts, and was received by them in the most kind and hospitable manner. He had been gone but a short time when one of the ladies missed some silver spoons; in consequence of which he was pursued and taken before a magistrate, and during his examination the other appeared, and on oath identified a silver tankard found in the prisoner's possession. He was committed to Newgate, and at the ensuing sessions at the Old Bailey condemned to suffer death.

During his confinement in Newgate he showed not the least remorse for his past offences, nor employed any part of the short time he had to exist in making the necessary preparation for the awful change he was about to experience; but flattered himself in the expectation of being reprieved. However, after learning that he was ordered for execution, he in some degree corrected the irregularity of his behaviour; but still his conduct was by no means such as might have been expected from a man in his dreadful situation.

He was almost wholly regardless of the devotional exercises at the place of execution, and refused to address the populace, though urged to it by the ordinary.

JOHN WHITMORE AND JEREMIAH DAWES

*Of the University of Oxford. Convicted and punished
for Sedition, 28th of November, 1748*

SOON after the Rebellion was crushed, great discontent was discovered in several private meetings, which, being of little import to the commonweal, was passed over, under the hopes that time would reconcile jarring opinions to the

JOHN WHITMORE AND JEREMIAH DAWES

family on the throne. But it was little expected that the smallest spark of sedition should be fanned into a flame among students at a university, among men half grown in body and still weaker in mind.

That such was actually the case we shall show; and to this end give verbatim the proclamation of the Vice-Chancellor of Oxford.

At a meeting of the Vice-Chancellor, Heads of Houses, and Proctors of the University of Oxford, on Monday, 11th of April, 1748 :—

Whereas there have been lately some very tumultuous disturbances and outrages committed in the public streets of Oxford, by young scholars of the University, particularly on the 23rd of February last past, amounting to a notorious insult on his Majesty's crown and government, and in utter contempt of the wholesome laws and discipline of this University and the Governors thereof; we, the Vice-Chancellor, Heads of Houses, and Proctors, this day assembled, think it incumbent on us to make this public declaration of our sincere abhorrence and detestation of such factions and seditious practices, as also of our firm resolution to punish all offenders (of what state or quality soever they are) who shall be duly convicted thereof, according to the uttermost severity and rigour of our statutes.

And whereas many of the disorders complained of have been chiefly and immediately owing to scholars having private entertainments and company at their chambers, which are generally attended with great intemperance and excess, and always with expense, that are both needless and hurtful: we therefore earnestly recommend it to all bursars, deans, censors and tutors to prevent, as much as in their power, this unstatutable and mischievous practice, and to oblige all persons to attend in the common hall at the usual hours of dinner and supper.

And as these irregularities are too frequently practised (as we have reason to believe) at coffee-houses, cook-shops

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and victualling-houses, all proctors and magistrates of the University are strictly required to be vigilant and careful in visiting all such public-houses and places of entertainment and idleness, and in duly punishing all young scholars whom they shall at any time find at such places; and likewise laying a mulct on the masters or mistresses of such houses for receiving and entertaining such scholars, contrary to the known rules, orders and statutes of the University.

Given under our hand the day and year above mentioned.

J. PURNELL,
Vice-Chancellor.

In consequence of this proclamation several of these beardless striplings of sedition were apprehended, and removed to the Court of King's Bench at Westminster, to take their trial before a jury of their country, and John Whitmore and Jeremiah Dawes were found guilty. Charles Luxmore, after a trial of eight hours, was acquitted.

On Monday, 28th of November, 1748, these two scholars were brought up to the bar of the Court of King's Bench to receive sentence, which was, "To be fined five nobles each, to suffer two years' imprisonment in the King's Bench Prison, and to find two sureties for their good behaviour for seven years, themselves to be bound in five hundred pounds and their securities in two hundred and fifty pounds each; and that they immediately walk round Westminster Hall, with a label affixed to their foreheads, denoting their crime and sentence, and to ask pardon of the several Courts."

They accordingly were each labelled on the forehead and led round the Hall, stopping at each Court to solicit pardon, and then sent to prison.

BENJAMIN TAPNER, JOHN COBBY, JOHN
HAMMOND, RICHARD MILLS, RICHARD
MILLS THE YOUNGER, AND OTHERS

*Revengeful Smugglers, who were executed for a Diabolical
Murder, 18th of January, 1749*

WE do not recollect ever to have heard of a case exhibiting greater brutality on the part of the murderers towards their victims than this. The offenders were all smugglers, and the unfortunate objects of their crime were a custom-house officer and a shoemaker, named respectively William Galley and Daniel Chater. It would appear that, a daring and very extensive robbery having been committed at the custom-house at Poole, Galley and Chater were sent to Stanstead, in Sussex, to give some information to Major Battine, a magistrate, in reference to the circumstance. They did not, however, return to their homes, and on inquiry it turned out that they had been brutally murdered, the body of Galley being traced, by means of bloodhounds, to be buried, while that of Chater was discovered at a distance of six miles, in a well in Harris's Wood, near Leigh, in Lady Holt's Park, covered up with a quantity of stones, wooden railings and earth.

At a special commission held at Chichester on the 16th of January, 1749, the prisoners Benjamin Tapner, John Cobby, John Hammond, William Carter, Richard Mills the elder and Richard Mills the younger were indicted for the murder of Daniel Chater; the three first as principals and the others as accessories before the fact; and William Jackson and William Carter were indicted for the murder of William Galley.

From the evidence adduced, the circumstances of this most horrid murder were proved, and it appeared that the two deceased persons, having passed Havant on their road to Stanstead, went to the New Inn, at Leigh, where they met one Austin, and his brother and brother-in-law, of whom they asked the road, and they conducted them to

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Rowland's Castle, where they said they might obtain better information. They went into the White Hart, and Mrs Payne, the landlady, suspecting the object of their mission, sent for the prisoners Jackson and Carter, and they were soon after joined by some others of the gang. After they had been all sitting together, Carter called Chater out, and demanded to know where Diamond, one of those suspected of the robbery, was. Chater replied that he was in custody, and that he was going against his will to give evidence against him. Galley, following them into the yard, was knocked down by Carter, on his calling Chater away, and they then returned indoors. The smugglers now pretended to be sorry for what had occurred, and desired Galley to drink some rum, and they persisted in plying him and Chater with liquor until they were both intoxicated. They were then persuaded to lie down and sleep, and a letter to Major Battine, of which they were the bearers, was taken from them, read and destroyed.

One John Royce, a smuggler, now came in, and Jackson and Carter told him the contents of the letter, and said that they had got the old rogue, the shoemaker of Fording Bridge, who was going to inform against John Diamond, the shepherd, then in custody at Chichester. Here William Steele proposed to take them both to a well about two hundred yards from the house, and to murder and throw them in; but this was rejected, and, after several propositions had been made as to the mode in which they should be disposed of, the scene of cruelty was commenced by Jackson, who, putting on his spurs, jumped upon the bed where they lay, and spurred their foreheads, and then whipped them; so that they both got up bleeding. The smugglers then took them out of the house, and Mills swore he would shoot anyone who followed or said anything of what had occurred.

Meanwhile the rest put Galley and Chater on one horse, tied their legs under the horse's belly, and then tied the legs of both together. They now set forward, with the exception of Royce, who had no horse; and they had not gone above

TAPNER, COBBY, HAMMOND, MILLS

two hundred yards before Jackson called out, " Whip 'em, cut 'em, slash 'em, d—n 'em ! " upon which all began to whip, except Steele, who led the horse, the roads being very bad. They whipped them for half-a-mile, till they came to Woodash, where they fell off, with their heads under the horse's belly ; and their legs, which were tied, appeared over the horse's back. Their tormentors soon set them upright again, and continued whipping them over the head, face, shoulders, etc., till they came to Dean, upwards of half-a-mile farther ; and here they both fell again as before, with their heads under the horse's belly, which were struck at every step by the horse's hoofs.

At last Galley expired, and they threw the body over the horse and carried it off with them to the house of one Scardefield, who kept the Red Lion, at Rake. Jackson and Carter carried Chater down to the house of the elder Mills, where they chained him up in a turf-house. Their companions in the meantime drank gin and brandy at Scardefield's, and, it being now nearly dark, they borrowed spades and a candle and lantern and, making him assist them in digging a hole, they buried the body of the murdered officer. They then separated, but on the Thursday they met again with some more of their associates, including the prisoners Richard Mills and his two sons Richard and John, Thomas Stringer, Cobby, Tapner and Hammond, for the purpose of deliberating what should be done with their prisoner. It was soon unanimously resolved that he must be destroyed, and it was determined that they should take him to Harris's Well and throw him in, as it was considered that that death would be most likely to cause him the greatest pain.

During this time the wretched man was in a state of the utmost horror and misery, being visited occasionally by all his tormentors, who abused him and beat him violently. At last, when this determination had been arrived at, they all went, and Tapner, pulling out a clasp-knife, ordered him on his knees, swearing that he would be his butcher ; but being dissuaded from this, as being opposed to their plan to prolong the miseries of their prisoner, he contented himself

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with slashing the knife across his eyes, almost cutting them out, and completely severing the gristle of his nose. They then placed him upon a horse, and all set out together for Harris's Well, except Mills and his sons, they having no horses ready. It was in the dead of the night that they brought their victim to the well, which was nearly thirty feet deep, but dry, and paled close round; and, Tapner having fastened a noose round his neck, they bade him get over the pales. They then tied one end of the cord to the pales and pushed him over the brink; but, the rope being short, he hung no farther within it than his thighs, and, leaning against the edge, he hung above a quarter of an hour and was not strangled. They then untied him, and threw him head foremost into the well. They tarried some time, and hearing him groan, and fearful that the sound might lead to a discovery, the place being near the road, they threw upon him some of the rails and gate-posts fixed about the well, as well as some great stones; and then, finding him silent, they left him. Their next consultation was how to dispose of their horses; and they killed Galley's, which was grey, and, taking his hide off, cut it into small pieces and hid them so as to prevent any discovery; but a bay horse that Chater had ridden on got from them.

This being the evidence produced, the jury, after being out of court about a quarter of an hour, brought in a verdict of guilty against all the prisoners; whereupon the judge pronounced sentence on the convicts in a most pathetic address. The heinousness of the crime of which these men had been convicted rendering it necessary that their punishment should be exemplary, the judge ordered that they should be executed on the following day; and the sentence was accordingly carried into execution against all but Jackson, who died in prison on the evening that he was condemned.

They were hanged at Chichester, on the 18th of January, 1749, amidst a vast concourse of spectators.

USHER GAHAGAN AND TERENCE CONNER

*Erudite Men, who were executed for High Treason,
in diminishing the Current Coin of the Realm,
28th of February, 1749*

USHER GAHAGAN and Terence Conner were natives of Ireland. The former received his education in Trinity College, Dublin, and was intended for the honourable profession of the law, in which several of his relations had become eminent.

He had been instructed by his parents in the Protestant religion, but falling into company with some priests of the Romish persuasion they converted him to their faith, which was a principal obstacle to his future advancement in life; for as no gentleman can be admitted a counsellor-at-law without taking the Oaths of Supremacy and Adjuration, and as Mr Gahagan's new faith prevented his complying with these terms, he declined any further prosecution of his legal studies.

His parents and other relations were greatly offended with his conduct; and those who had particularly engaged themselves for the advancement of his fortune forbade him to visit them, through indignation at the impropriety of his behaviour.

Thus reduced to an incapacity of supporting himself, he sought to relieve his circumstances by a matrimonial scheme; and having addressed the daughter of a gentleman, he obtained her in marriage, and received a good fortune with her; but, treating her with undeserved severity, she was compelled to return to the protection of her relations.

His conduct having now rendered him obnoxious to his acquaintances in Dublin, he quitted that city, and repaired to London, with a view to supporting himself by his literary abilities.

On his arrival in the metropolis he made some connections with the booksellers, and undertook to translate Pope's *Essay on Man* into Latin; but, becoming connected with

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some women of abandoned character, he spent his time in a dissipated manner, and thus threw himself out of that employment which might have afforded him a decent support.

He now made an acquaintance with an Irishman, named Hugh Coffey, and they agreed on a plan for the diminution of the current coin. At this time Gahagan had a lodger named Conner, and, it being agreed to receive him as a partner in this iniquitous scheme, they procured proper tools. Having collected a sum of money, they filed it and put it off; and procuring more, filed that also and passed it in the same manner.

Having continued this business some months, during which they had saved a sum of money, they went to the bank, and got some Portugal pieces, under pretence that they were intended for exportation to Ireland. Thus they got money repeatedly at the bank; but at length one of the tellers, suspecting their business, communicated his suspicion to the governors, who directed him to drink with them, as the proper method to discover who they were and what was their employment.

In pursuance of this order he, on their next appearance, invited them to drink a glass of wine at the Crown Tavern, near Cripplegate; to which they readily agreed, and met him after the hours of office.

When the circulation of the glass had sufficiently warmed them, Gahagan, with a degree of weakness that is altogether astonishing, informed the teller that he acquired considerable sums by filing gold, and even proposed that he should become a partner with them. The gentleman seemed to accede to the proposal, and, having learned where they lodged, acquainted the cashiers of the bank with what had passed.

On the following day Coffey was apprehended; but Gahagan and Conner, being suspicious of the danger of their situation, retired to a public-house called Chalk Farm, a little way out of the road from London to Hampstead, where they carried their implements for filing; but Coffey having been admitted an evidence it was not long before

JOHN COLLINGTON

the place of their retreat was known; on which they were apprehended, and lodged in Newgate.

Terence Conner was a native of Ireland, and had received a most liberal education. It is recorded of him that he was so perfectly well read in Roman history as to be able to turn to any part of it without the assistance of an index. He was, by birth, heir to a considerable fortune; but, his father dying without a proper adjustment of his affairs, some intricate lawsuits were the consequence; so that the whole estate was only sufficient to discharge the demands of the gentlemen of the long robe.

Conner, being reduced in circumstances, came to London, and, becoming acquainted with Gahagan and Coffey, was concerned in diminishing the coin, as above mentioned.

On their trial the evidence of Coffey was positive; and, being supported by collateral proofs, the jury could not hesitate to find them guilty, and they received sentence of death. They were hanged on 28th of February, 1749.

JOHN COLLINGTON

A Man of extraordinary Violence and Inhumanity.

Executed at Canterbury with his Accomplice,

John Stone, for setting fire to a Barn

THE father of John Collington was Rector of Pluckley, near Sandwich, in Kent; and the youth was qualified, by a most liberal education and his great natural talents, to have made a very respectable figure in life; but his passions were so violent, and his revenge so implacable, that all who knew him beheld him with horror. He used to declare that he would be a sincere friend but an inveterate foe; and even while at school created such dissensions among the other scholars that he was held in universal contempt, and was discharged from more schools than one with marks of ignominy.

At length his father apprenticed him to a grocer, in Newgate Street, London; but he behaved in such a manner

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as to become an object of terror to his fellow-servants. The duplicity of his conduct incensed the master so, that he gave up his indentures and discharged him. Having served the remainder of his apprenticeship with a grocer of Maidstone, he opened a shop at Rye, in Sussex, where he lived for some years; but his temper was so bad that he fomented perpetual discord among his neighbours. From this place he went to Charing, in Kent, where he likewise kept a shop a considerable time; but the same conduct which had rendered him an object of contempt at Rye made him equally obnoxious to the inhabitants of this latter place.

Collington had not been long in business before he married a young lady, with whom he received a considerable fortune, and by whom he had ten children, four of whom were living at the time of their father's fatal exit. The conduct of this man towards his wife and children was the most extravagant that can be imagined. The six children who died he buried in his own garden, nor would he permit any of them to be baptized. He frequently beat his children in a barbarous manner, and when the mother interposed on their behalf he used to confine her whole nights in a saw-pit. Once, on her interposing on behalf of one of her children, whom he was treating with severity, he threw her downstairs and stamped on her breast, which gave rise to a cancer that occasioned her death.

Collington's father dying soon after this event, he succeeded to a good estate at Throwleigh, in Kent, to which place he removed, and took to the practice of exporting wool contrary to law; for which he was prosecuted in the Court of Exchequer, and ordered to pay a large penalty. But he avoided payment by having previously conveyed his estate to another and then swearing that he was not worth five pounds.

Notwithstanding the treatment his first wife had received from him, he soon married a second, by whom he had six children; and four of these, besides the same number by the former marriage (as we have mentioned), were living at the time of his death.

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Being fond of hunting, his offences against the laws made for the preservation of game became so numerous that the Dowager Countess of Rockingham built a cottage, in which she placed one of her servants as a spy upon his conduct. Collington, incensed by this circumstance, tempted a poor countryman to set fire to the cottage; but the man had courage and honesty enough to resist the temptation. Thereupon Collington took one of his servants, named Luckhurst, to Faversham, in Kent, at the time of the fair; and on their way thither told him he would give him half-a-guinea to fire the said cottage; which the man received, promising to comply.

On the following day, when Luckhurst recollected the nature of the contract he had been making, his mind was so disturbed that he went to Collington and offered back the money, declaring that he would have no share in the transaction. Collington was so enraged that he threatened to destroy him unless he kept the money and did as he had agreed; the consequence of which was, the man fired the cottage at midnight, by which it was reduced to the ground.

Collington was so neglectful of his children that he would not buy them necessary apparel, so that they appeared like beggars; nor would he even pay for their learning to read. The following is a striking proof of his want of humanity. One of his sons, a boy twelve years old, having offended him, he confined him in a saw-pit, where he must have been starved but that he was occasionally supplied with food by the humanity of the servants; and for this conduct their brutal master turned them out of the house without paying what was due to them. This inhuman father then refused to maintain his son, so that the child absolutely begged his bread in the neighbourhood; but he had not wandered long in this manner when Mr Clarke, the churchwarden, received him into his house, and provided for him till the Quarter Sessions, when he submitted the case to the consideration of the magistrates.

These gentlemen, having reflected that Mr Collington was in affluent circumstances, gave directions that the child

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should be properly provided for ; and issued a warrant for seizing part of the father's effects to defray the charge. This warrant was executed by a constable, whom Clarke attended : a circumstance which gave such offence to Collington that he vowed revenge, and bade Clarke make his will. After this he hired five fellows to go to Mr Clarke's house and demand the child, on pretence that he belonged to a ship ; but Mr Clarke, having the magistrates' order for his proceedings, said he was willing to answer for his conduct before any Justice of the Peace. No sooner had he thus expressed himself than they beat him in the most violent degree, and threatened his instant destruction unless he consented to accompany them. These threats had such an effect that he mounted a horse behind one of them, but as they were riding along he jumped off, and ran into the courtyard of a gentleman whose gate happened to stand open, while the other parties fired at him ; but he escaped unhurt. Here he remained till the following day, when he went to his own house, and thence to a magistrate, before whom he swore the peace against Collington ; on which the magistrate granted his warrant for the apprehension of the offender, who, refusing to give bail for his good behaviour, was lodged in the jail of Canterbury.

During his confinement he continually threatened vengeance against Clarke ; and to execute his purpose he sent for a labouring man, named Stone, and the above-mentioned Luckhurst, and offered them a guinea each, on the condition of their setting fire to Mr Clarke's barn, in which a considerable quantity of corn was deposited. The villains, agreeing to this bargain, fired the barn at midnight, and likewise a number of hayricks, all of which were destroyed. Mr Clarke, suspecting that Collington was the contriver of this horrid scheme, made application to a magistrate, who issued an order that the prisoner should be more closely confined, and that the jail-keeper should take particular notice of his visitors. This precaution led to a discovery of the offenders ; for on Luckhurst coming to procure more money of Collington he was taken into custody, and

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conducted before a Justice of the Peace, to whom he confessed the affair; and being admitted an evidence, Stone was soon taken up as one of the principals.

At the following assizes, held at Maidstone, Collington and Stone were brought to trial; when the former turned his back on the Court with an air of such utter contempt that the judge declared he had never been witness to such a scene of insolence. The prisoners, being convicted on the fullest evidence, were carried back to Canterbury, where the debtors commiserated their unhappy circumstances; but Collington made a jest of his situation, and swore he did not regard it, as he was certain of obtaining the Royal mercy.

This hardened villain likewise encouraged Stone to hope for mercy, as he could get him included in the pardon; but the event proved how much he was mistaken in his conjecture.

Collington's wife, coming to visit him, was so affected with grief as to be unable to speak to him for a considerable time; yet he was so hardened as not to feel for her situation, but bade her not give herself the least concern, as he was certain of getting a reprieve, and hoped to live to revenge himself on his enemies, even if he should be transported.

He frequently expressed himself in the most revengeful terms against his prosecutor; and appeared, in other respects, so destitute of all the feelings of humanity that his conduct surprised everyone who was witness to it. Thus he spent his time without preparing for the sentence that he was to suffer, still boasting to his visitors that the rank of life he held as a gentleman would secure him a reprieve.

Luckhurst, who had been evidence against him, being apprehended for committing a robbery on the highway, Collington thought this a fair opportunity to solicit a reprieve, for which purpose he dispatched an express to the Duke of Newcastle; but the answer he received was that he must not expect any favour, for that the gentlemen of the county had exerted their influence that the law might be permitted

NEWGATE CALENDAR

to take its course. On being informed that the warrant for his execution was arrived, his boasted courage left him for a short time; but recollecting himself he inquired if Stone was included in the warrant; and being answered in the affirmative, said he lamented his situation more than his own. After this he soon recovered his spirits, and still flattered himself with the hope of being pardoned. The day preceding his execution he was visited by his wife and several relations, who advised him to make a serious preparation for his approaching death, and asked him where he would be buried. This question inflamed all his passions, so that he swore he would not be hanged; but soon afterwards, calling for a glass of wine, he drank it, saying: "Let us eat and drink, for to-morrow we die."

On the following day Collington was conveyed to the place of execution in a mourning-coach, and Stone in a cart; and both of them being placed under the gallows, Collington prayed with the minister, but declined making any speech to the surrounding multitude.

RICHARD COLEMAN

*Who was executed on Kennington Common, in Surrey,
12th of April, 1749, for a Murder he did not commit*¹

RICHARD COLEMAN was indicted at the assizes held at Kingston, in Surrey, in March 1749, for the murder of Sarah Green, on the 23rd of July preceding; when he was capitally convicted.

Mr Coleman had received a decent education, and was clerk to a brewer at the time the affair happened which cost him his life; and had a wife and several children, who were reduced to accept the bounty of the parish, in consequence of his conviction.

The murdered person was Sarah Green, who, having been with some acquaintances to a beanfeast in Kennington

¹ This man's innocence was fully established in 1751, when James Welsh and Thomas Jones confessed that they committed the crime. See p. 208.

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Lane, stayed to a late hour, and on her return towards Southwark she met with three men, who had the appearance of brewers' servants, two of whom used her in so inhuman a manner as will bear no description.

Such was the ill-treatment she had received that it was two o'clock in the morning before she was able to reach her lodgings, and on the following day was so ill that she informed several people how she had been treated; on which she was sent to St Thomas's Hospital.

While in the hospital she declared that the clerk in Taylor's (then Berry's) brew-house was one of the parties who had treated her in such an infamous manner; and it was supposed that Coleman was the person to whom she alluded.

Two days after the shocking transaction had happened, Coleman and one Daniel Trotman called at the Queen's Head ale-house, in Bandy-Leg Walk, when the latter was perfectly sober, but the former in a state of intoxication. Having called for some rum-and-water, Coleman was stirring it with a spoon when a stranger asked him what he had done with the pig—meaning a pig that had been lately stolen in the neighbourhood. Coleman, unconscious of guilt, and conceiving himself affronted by such an impertinent question, said: "D—n the pig, what is it to me?"

The other, who seems to have had an intention to ensnare him, asked him if he did not know Kennington Lane. Coleman answered that he did, and added: "D—n ye, what of that?" The other then asked him if he knew the woman that had been so cruelly treated in Kennington Lane. Coleman replied: "Yes," and again said: "D—n ye, what of that?" The other man asked: "Was not you one of the parties concerned in that affair?" Coleman, who, as we have said, was intoxicated, and had no suspicion of design, replied: "If I had, you dog, what then?"—and threw at him the spoon with which he was stirring the liquor. A violent quarrel ensued; but at length Coleman went away with Trotman.

On the following day, Coleman calling at the Queen's

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Head above mentioned, the landlord informed him how imprudently he had acted the preceding day. Coleman, who had been too drunk to remember what had passed, asked if he had offended any person ; on which the landlord informed him of what had happened, but the other, still conscious of his innocence, paid no regard to what he said.

On the 29th of August, Daniel Trotman and another man went before Mr Clarke, a magistrate in the Borough, and charged Coleman on suspicion of having violently assaulted and cruelly treated Sarah Green, in the Parsonage Walk, near Newington Church, in Surrey.

The magistrate, who does not seem to have supposed that Coleman was guilty, sent for him, and hired a man to attend him to the hospital where the wounded woman lay ; and pointing out Coleman, he asked her if he was one of the persons who had used her so cruelly. She said she believed he was, but, as she declined to swear positively to his having any concern in the affair, Justice Clarke admitted him to bail.

Some time afterwards Coleman was again taken before the magistrate, when, nothing positively being sworn against him, the justice would have absolutely discharged him, but Mr Wynne, the master of the injured girl, requesting that he might once more be taken to see her, a time was fixed for that purpose, and the justice took Coleman's word for his appearance.

The accused party came punctually to his time, bringing with him the landlord of an ale-house where Sarah Green had drunk on the night of the affair with the three men who really injured her ; and this publican, and other people, declared on oath that Coleman was not one of the parties.

On the following day Justice Clarke went to the hospital to take the examination of the woman on oath. Having asked her if Coleman was one of the men who had injured her, she said she could not tell, as it was dark at the time ; but, Coleman being called in, an oath was administered to her, when she swore that he was one of the three men that abused her.

RICHARD COLEMAN

Notwithstanding this oath, the justice, who thought the poor girl not in her right senses, and was convinced in his own mind of the innocence of Coleman, permitted him to depart on his promise of bringing bail the following day to answer the complaint at the next assizes for Surrey; and he brought his bail, and gave security accordingly.

Sarah Green dying in the hospital, the coroner's jury sat to inquire into the cause of her death; and, having found a verdict of wilful murder against Richard Coleman and two persons then unknown, a warrant was issued to take Coleman into custody.

Though this man was conscious of his innocence, yet such were his terrors at the idea of going to prison on such a charge that he absconded, and secreted himself at Pinner, near Harrow-on-the-Hill.

King George II. being then at Hanover, a proclamation was issued by the Lords of the Regency offering a reward of fifty pounds for the apprehension of the supposed offender; and to this the parish of St Saviour, Southwark, added a reward of twenty pounds.

Coleman read the advertisement for his apprehension in the *Gazette*, but was still so thoughtless as to conceal himself; though perhaps an immediate surrender would have been deemed the strongest testimony of his innocence. However, to assert his innocence, he caused the following advertisement to be printed in the newspaper:—

“I, Richard Coleman, seeing myself advertised in the *Gazette* as absconding on account of the murder of Sarah Green, knowing myself not any way culpable, do assert that I have not absconded from justice; but will willingly and readily appear at the next assizes, knowing that my innocence will acquit me.”

Strict search being made after him, he was apprehended at Pinner, above mentioned, on the 22nd of November, and lodged in Newgate, whence he was removed to the New Jail, Southwark, till the time of the assizes at Kingston, in Surrey; when his conviction arose principally from the

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evidence of Trotman and the declaration of the dying woman.

Some persons positively swore that he was in another place at the time the fact was committed, but their evidence was not credited by the jury. After conviction Coleman behaved like one who was possessed of conscious innocence, and who had no fear of death for a crime which he had not committed.

He was attended at the place of execution by the Rev. Mr Wilson, to whom he delivered a paper in which he declared, in the most solemn and explicit manner, that he was altogether innocent of the crime alleged against him. He died with great resignation, lamenting only the distress in which he should leave a wife and children.

THOMAS KINGSMILL, FAIRALL AND PERIN

*Three of the thirty Smugglers who broke open the Custom-House at Poole, and were executed at Tyburn,
26th of April, 1749*

KINGSMILL was a native of Goudhurst, in Kent, and had passed some part of his life as a husbandman ; but having associated with the smugglers, he made no scruple of entering into the most hazardous enterprises, and became so distinguished for his courageous—or rather ferocious—disposition that he was chosen captain of the gang.

Fairall was a native of Horsendown Green, in Kent, and the son of poor parents, who were unable either to educate him or to give him any regular employment by which he might obtain a livelihood. He began to associate with the smugglers while quite a boy, and was frequently employed by them to hold their horses ; and when he grew up to man's estate he was admitted as one of the fraternity. He was so remarkable for his brutal courage that it was not thought safe to offend him.

Perin was a native of Chichester, in Sussex. Having served his time to a carpenter, he practised some years as a master,

THOMAS KINGSMILL, FAIRALL AND PERIN

and was successful in trade; but a stroke of the palsy depriving him of the use of his right hand he became connected with the smugglers, on whose behalf he used to sail to the coast of France and purchase goods, which he brought to England; and in this capacity he proved very serviceable to the gang.

It is evident that these men must have greatly injured the revenue and the fair trader, for they had a number of warehouses in different parts of Sussex for the concealment of their goods, and kept not less than fifty horses, some of which they sent loaded to London, and others to the fairs round the country.

Perin, being in France in the year 1747, bought a large quantity of goods, which he loaded on board a cutter, with a view to run them on the coast of Sussex; but, as several smuggling vessels were expected at this juncture, Captain Johnson, who commanded a cutter in the Government's service, received orders to sail in search of them.

In consequence thereof he sailed from Poole and took the smuggling cutter above mentioned on the following day; but Perin and his accomplices escaped by taking to their boat. Captain Johnson found the cargo to consist of brandy and tea, to a very large amount, which he carried safe into the harbour of Poole.

Soon after this transaction, which happened in the month of September, the whole body of smugglers assembled in Charlton Park, to consult if there was any possibility of recovering the goods of which they had thus been deprived. After many schemes had been proposed, and rejected, Perin recommended that they should go in a body, armed, and break open the custom-house at Poole; and, this proposal being acceded to, a paper was drawn up, by way of bond, that they should support each other; and this was signed by all the parties.

This agreement, which was filled with dreadful curses on each other in case of failure to execute it, was signed on the 6th of October. Having provided themselves with swords and fire-arms they met on the following day; and,

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having concealed themselves in a wood till the evening, they proceeded towards Poole, where they arrived about eleven at night.

Having forced the door of the custom-house open, with hatchets and other instruments, they carried off the smuggled goods, with which they loaded their horses ; and, travelling all night, stopped in the morning at Fording's Bridge.

The smugglers numbered thirty, and their horses thirty-one. Continuing their journey to a place named Brook, they divided the booty into equal shares, and then departed, each to his own house.

This daring transaction being represented to the Secretaries of State, King George II. gave orders for issuing a proclamation, with a reward for the apprehension of the offenders. At length two of the smugglers gave intelligence of the usual place of meeting of the others, in consequence of which Fairall, Kingsmill, Perin, and another, named Glover, were taken into custody, and conducted to Newgate. They were brought to trial, were capitally convicted, and received sentence of death ; but the jury recommended Glover as an object of the Royal clemency.

On the following day Perin was carried to the place of execution in a mourning-coach ; the two others in a cart with a guard of Horse and Foot Guards. The behaviour of Fairall and Kingsmill was remarkably undaunted ; but all of them joined in devotion with the ordinary of Newgate when they came to the fatal tree. The bodies of Kingsmill and Fairall were hung in chains in the county of Kent.

JOHN MILLS

His Father and Brother were hanged, and he suffered a similar Fate on Slendon Common, Sussex, 12th of August, 1749

THIS monster was another son of Richard Mills, who was executed for murder. He was concerned in the murder of the custom-house officers, but escaped for a time the slow but unerring hand of justice. He was also

JOHN MILLS

one of that gang of villains who most daringly broke open the custom-house at Poole; and yet was he reserved to make atonement for a fresh murder, equally as cruel as that with which his father and brothers had imbrued their hands.

John Mills and some associates, travelling over Hindheath, saw the judges on their road to Chichester to try the murderers of Chater and Galley; on which young Mills proposed to rob them; but the other parties refused to have any concern in such an affair. Soon after his father, brother and their accomplices were hanged, Mills thought of going to Bristol, with a view to embarking for France; and having hinted his intentions to some others they resolved to accompany him, and stopping at a house on the road they met with one Richard Hawkins, whom they asked to go with them; and when the poor fellow hesitated, they put him on horseback behind Mills, and carried him to the Dog and Partridge, on Slendon Common, which was kept by John Reynolds.

They had not been long in the house when complaint was made that two bags of tea had been stolen, and Hawkins was charged with the robbery. He steadily denied any knowledge of the affair; but this not satisfying the villains, they obliged him to pull off his clothes; and, having likewise stripped themselves, they began to whip him with the most unrelenting barbarity; and Curtis, one of the gang, said he did know of the robbery, and if he would not confess he would whip him till he did; for he had whipped many a rogue, and washed his hands in his blood. These bloodthirsty villains continued whipping the poor wretch till their breath was almost exhausted; while he begged them to spare his life, on account of his wife and child. Hawkins drawing up his legs to defend himself in some measure from their blows, they kicked him on the groin in a manner too shocking to be described, continually asking him what was become of the tea. At length the unfortunate man mentioned something of his father and brother; on which Mills and one Curtis said they would go and fetch

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them; but Hawkins expired soon after they had left the house.

Rowland, one of the accomplices, now locked the door; and, putting the key in his pocket, he and Thomas Winter (who was afterwards admitted evidence) went out to meet Curtis and Mills, whom they saw riding up a lane leading from an adjacent village, having each a man behind him. Winter desiring to speak with his companions, the other men stood at a distance while he asked Curtis what he meant to do with them, and he said to confront them with Hawkins. Winter now said that Hawkins was dead, and begged that no more mischief might be done; but Curtis replied: "By G—! we will go through it now." But at length they permitted them to go home, saying that when they were wanted they should be sent for.

The murderers now coming back to the public-house, Reynolds said, "You have ruined me"; but Curtis replied that he would make him amends. Having consulted how they should dispose of the body, it was proposed to throw it into a well in an adjacent park; but this being objected to, they carried it twelve miles, and having tied stones to it, in order to sink it, they threw it into a pond in Parham Park, belonging to Sir Cecil Bishop; and in this place it lay more than two months before it was discovered.

This horrid and unprovoked murder gave rise to a Royal proclamation, in which a pardon was offered to any persons, even outlawed smugglers—except those who had been guilty of murder, or concerned in breaking open the custom-house at Poole—on condition of discovering the persons who had murdered Hawkins, particularly Mills, who was charged with having had a concern in this horrid transaction. Thereupon William Pring, an outlawed smuggler, who had not had any share in either of the crimes excepted in the proclamation, went to the Secretary of State and informed him that he would find Mills if he could be assured of his own pardon; and added that he believed he was either at Bath or Bristol. Being assured that he need not doubt of the pardon, he set out for Bristol, where he found Mills,

JOHN MILLS

and with him Thomas and Lawrence Kemp, brothers, the former of whom had broken out of Newgate, and the other was outlawed by proclamation. Having consulted on their desperate circumstances, Pring offered them a retreat at his house near Beckenham, in Kent, whence they might make excursions and commit robberies on the highway.

Pleased with this proposal, they set out with Pring, and arrived in safety at his house, where they had not been long before he pretended that, his horse being an indifferent one, and theirs remarkably good, he would go and procure another, and then they would proceed on the intended expeditions. Thus saying, he set out, and they agreed to wait for his return ; but instead of going to procure a horse he went to the house of Mr Rackster, an officer of the excise at Horsham, who, taking with him seven or eight armed men, went to Beckenham at night, where they found Mills and the two brothers Kemp just going to supper on a breast of veal. They immediately secured the brothers, by tying their arms ; but Mills, making resistance, was cut with a hanger before he would submit. The offenders were conducted to the county jail for Sussex, and, being secured till the assizes, were removed to East Grinstead, where the brothers Kemp were tried for highway robberies, convicted, sentenced and executed.

Mills, being tried for the murder of Hawkins, was capitally convicted, and received sentence of death, and to be hanged in chains near the place where the murder was committed.

After conviction he mentioned several robberies in which he had been concerned, but refused to tell the names of any of his accomplices, declaring that he thought he should merit damnation if he made any discoveries by means of which any of his companions might be apprehended and convicted.

The country being at that time filled with smugglers, a rescue was feared ; wherefore he was conducted to the place of execution by a guard of soldiers ; and when there prayed with a clergyman, confessed that he had led a bad life, acknowledged the murder of Hawkins, desired that all young people would take warning by his untimely end,

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humbly implored the forgiveness of God, and professed to die in charity with all mankind.

After execution he was hanged in chains on Slendon Common.

ROBERT COX

Late Captain's Clerk of the Royal George Man-of-War.

*Executed at Winchester, 1st of September, 1749,
for Forging Seamen's Tickets*

THIS man was tried on several indictments: the first for stealing a certain obligation, called "a seaman's ticket," the property of Benjamin Berry; the others for forgery in endorsing the same.

When ships-of-war return from a long foreign station the crews are generally turned over to others, fit for service; and upon these occasions each man is delivered a warrant, signed by the principal officers, under whom he served, and which is called a seaman's ticket; in fact, it is a negotiable property when endorsed, like a note of hand or bill of exchange; but, because the men should not be tempted to sell their tickets under price, instead of being put into their possession they are sent with them to the captain of the ship to which they are turned over, and lodged in his hands till they are ordered to some other ship, and then these tickets are still sent with them. In this manner, the Glasgow man-of-war being laid up, part of her crew were turned over to several ships successively, and at length to the *Royal George*.

Soon after the peace was agreed upon, these men were of course discharged, and the tickets put into the hands of their proper owners; but those of Mr Berry and twelve seamen more were missing, and no account could be given of them. They immediately laid the fact before the Lords of the Admiralty, by way of petition, who wrote to Captain Harrison, to know the reason why the petitioners were refused their tickets. The Captain answered the letter, but was unable to give any reason, or to say more than that they could not be found. Upon which the Lords of the Admiralty

ANN FLYNN

thought fit to mulct the wages due to the men out of Captain Harrison's pay, who, now feeling most sensibly the case of the poor sailors, made more immediate inquiry after the lost tickets, and accordingly advertised for them, with a reward to any person who should make a discovery.

Mr Cullen, who formerly kept the inn called the India Arms, at Gosport, deposed that the identical tickets so advertised were deposited with him by the prisoner, Robert Cox, as security for twenty guineas, which he had lent him ; and that on the appearance of the advertisement Cox came to him to beg he would take his bond for the twenty guineas and give him up the tickets. But the witness refused so to do ; telling him if he came honestly by them he might immediately sell them, and, out of what they brought, pay him the sum lent ; but that if he had not come honestly by them it was fit the truth should be known. Upon this, the witness continued, Cox went his way, and the witness hastened to give information to Captain Harrison.

Upon the trial of the first indictment no proof could be adduced that the prisoner stole the tickets, and he was accordingly acquitted ; but the second was fatal to him : for it was fully proved that he forged the name of Berry to the tickets, was found guilty, and received sentence of death. He suffered at Winchester, in September, 1749.

ANN FLYNN

A Sad Case with a Humorous Sequel

ANN FLYNN was indicted at the Old Bailey for stealing from a butcher in Whitechapel a shoulder of mutton. It appeared in evidence that, the prosecutor being busy with his customers on a Saturday night, the prisoner availed herself of that opportunity, and carried away the shoulder of mutton. She was, however, soon seized and brought back, and, an officer being sent for, she was carried before a magistrate, and committed for trial. These facts being proved, the prisoner was called upon for her defence ; and she told a tale of woe that penetrated every heart. She

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acknowledged the robbery; but solemnly declared she was urged to it by the most afflicting distress. Her husband had been ill and unable to earn a shilling for twelve weeks, and she was driven to the last extremity, with two infant children. In that deplorable situation, continued the unfortunate woman, while the tears ran down her wan cheeks, she desperately snatched the shoulder of mutton—for which she had already been confined five weeks.

The jury found her guilty, with a faltering accent; and the recorder immediately replied, "Gentlemen, I understand you," and sentenced her to be fined only one shilling and discharged, which the jury themselves paid, but the officer of the prison gave it to her.

This case, if the extremity of the law had been resorted to, was felony.

As soon as she was taken away, the prosecutor addressed the Court, and said that the constable had done him more injury than the thief; for though Sir William Parsons, the magistrate that committed her, had ordered him to take care of the shoulder of mutton, *he thought fit to cook it for his own dinner, and to sit down and eat it.*

[This new complaint, as might naturally be supposed, excited not a little the risible muscles of the Court.]

The constable was immediately called upon to account for his conduct, who said: "My Lord, I did take care of it, as ordered; I kept it whilst it was worth keeping, and if my wife and I had not eaten it, the dogs must have dined on it."

CAPTAIN CLARKE, R.N.

*Convicted and condemned to be hanged for the Murder
of Captain Innis, in a Duel, and pardoned,
12th of June, 1750*

THE Captains Innis and Clarke were commanders under Admiral Knowles—the first of the *Warwick*, and the latter of the *Canterbury*, line-of-battle-ships, of sixty-four guns each—when he obtained a victory over a Spanish

CAPTAIN CLARKE

fleet of equal force, and took from them the *Conquistadore*, and ran their *Vice-Admiral* on shore, where she blew up, the rest escaping under favour of the night. It was the opinion that had the Admiral availed himself of an opportunity which at one time presented of bringing up his fleet to bear at once upon the enemy the whole might have been taken.

The issue of this battle was therefore unsatisfactory to the nation, and the Admiral was called to account for his conduct before a court martial, held on board the royal yacht, the *Charlotte*, at Deptford, which sat during nine days.

The opinion of the Court being unfavourable to the Admiral caused a divided opinion among the officers. It did not, however, affect the personal bravery of that commander, but, on the contrary, as appeared in evidence, he displayed the greatest intrepidity, exposing his person to imminent danger, after his ship was disabled; but it appears that in manœuvring, previous to the engagement, he had not availed himself of an advantage, by which neglect it was begun by four of his, when six might have been brought up. The Court therefore determined that he fell under the 14th and 23rd Articles of War—namely, the word “negligence”; for which they sentenced him to be reprimanded. This sentence caused much ill blood among the officers. The Admiral had already been called out twice in duels with his captains, and had received more challenges of the same kind; but Government, being apprised of the outrages, put a stop to them by taking the challengers into custody.

Captain Clarke, it appears, had given evidence on the trial of the Admiral which displeased Captain Innis to so great a degree that he called him “a perjured rascal,” and charged him with giving false evidence. This was certainly language worse to be borne by an officer than rankling wounds, or even death. Captain Clarke, being apprised that Innis in this way traduced and vilified him in all companies, gave him a verbal challenge, which the other accepted.

On the 12th of August, 1749, early in the morning, these gentlemen, attended by their seconds, met in Hyde Park. The pistols of Captain Clarke were screw-barrelled and

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about seven inches long; those of Captain Innis were common pocket-pistols, three inches and a half in the barrel. They were not more than five yards distant from each other when they turned about, and Captain Clarke fired before Captain Innis had levelled his pistol. The ball took effect in the breast, of which wound Captain Innis expired at twelve o'clock the same night. The coroner's jury found a verdict of wilful murder against Captain Clarke, on which he was apprehended, brought to trial at the Old Bailey, found guilty, and sentenced to death. The King, in consideration of his services, and the bravery he displayed in fighting his ship under Admiral Knowles, was pleased to grant him a free pardon.

There were other circumstances in this unfortunate rencounter which were favourable to Captain Clarke, for his firing on turning round, and his pistol being larger than that of Captain Innis, was not deemed unfair by the sanguinary rules of duelling; for Captain Innis might have provided himself with a large pair had he pleased. But what pleaded powerfully on his behalf was the expressions of the dying man, who acquitted and forgave him. When a soldier seized Captain Clarke, the former asked the wounded man what he should do with him, to which he faintly answered: "Set him at liberty, for what he has done was my own seeking."

On the 1st of June, 1750, being the last day of the sessions of the Old Bailey, Captain Clarke, among the other convicts, was brought up to receive sentence of death, when he pleaded his Majesty's pardon, which had been then lately sent him, and which being recorded, he was discharged.

JAMES MACLANE

*Called "The Gentleman Highwayman." Executed at Tyburn,
3rd of October, 1750, for Highway Robbery*

THE subject of this memoir was descended from a reputable family in the north of Scotland. His father, after being liberally educated in the University of Glasgow, went to settle at Monaghan, in the north of Ireland, as

JAMES MACLANE

preacher to a congregation of Dissenters. He married and had two sons, the elder of whom was bred to the Church, and preached many years to the English congregation at The Hague, and was equally remarkable for his learning and the goodness of his heart. The younger son was the unfortunate subject of this narrative.

As a young man James was very extravagant, and after dissipating a fortune left by his father he came to London, and married the daughter of Mr Macglegno, a horse-dealer, with whom he received five hundred pounds, with which he commenced business as a grocer in Welbeck Street, Cavendish Square, and supported his family with some degree of credit till the expiration of three years, when his wife died, bequeathing two infant daughters to the care of her parents, who kindly undertook to provide for them; and both these children were living at the time of their father's ignominious death.

Hitherto Maclane's character among his neighbours was unimpeached; but soon after the death of his wife he sold off his stock-in-trade and furniture and assumed the character of a fine gentleman, in the hope of engaging the attention of some lady of fortune, to which he thought himself entitled by the gracefulness of his person and the elegance of his appearance.

At the end of about six months he had expended all his money, and became greatly dejected in mind from reflecting on that change of fortune that would probably reduce him to his former state of servitude. While in this state of dejection an Irish apothecary, named Plunkett, visited him and inquired into the cause of his despondency. Maclane acknowledged the exhausted state of his finances, candidly confessing that he had no money left, nor knew any way of raising a shilling but by the disposal of his wearing apparel; in answer to which Plunkett addressed him as follows:—

“I thought that Maclane had spirit and resolution, with some knowledge of the world. A brave man cannot want; he has a right to live, and not want the conveniences of life while the dull, plodding, busy knaves carry cash in their

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pockets. We must draw upon them to supply our wants; there needs only impudence and getting the better of a few idle scruples; there is scarce any courage necessary. All whom we have to deal with are mere poltroons."

These arguments, equally ill founded and ridiculous, co-operated so forcibly with the poverty of Maclane that he entered into conversation with Plunkett on the subject of going on the highway; and at length they entered into a solemn agreement to abide by each other in all adventures, and to share the profit of their depredations to the last shilling.

The first robbery these men committed was on Hounslow Heath, where they stopped a grazier, on his return from Smithfield, and took from him about sixty pounds.

This money being soon spent in extravagance, they were induced to take a ride on the St Albans Road, and seeing a stage-coach coming forward they agreed to ride up on the opposite sides of the carriage. Maclane's fears induced him to hesitate; and, when at length Plunkett ordered the driver to stop, it was with the utmost trepidation that the other demanded the money of the passengers.

On their return to London at night Plunkett censured him as a coward, and told him that he was unfit for his business. This had such an effect on him that he soon afterwards went out alone, and unknown to Plunkett; and, having robbed a gentleman of a large sum, he returned and shared it with his companion.

A short time only had elapsed after this expedition when he stopped and robbed the Honourable Horace Walpole, and his pistol accidentally went off during the attack. For some time he continued this irregular mode of life, during which he paid two guineas a week for his lodgings and lived in a style of elegance, which he accounted for by asserting that he had an estate in Ireland which produced seven hundred pounds a year.

The speciousness of his behaviour, the gracefulness of his person and the elegance of his appearance combined to make him a welcome visitor, even at the houses of women

JAMES MACLANE

of character; and he had so far ingratiated himself into the affections of a young lady that her ruin would probably have been the consequence of their connection but that a gentleman, casually hearing of this affair, and knowing Maclane to be a sharper, interposed his timely advice and saved her from destruction.

On the 26th of June, 1750, Plunkett and Maclane, riding out together, met the Earl of Eglinton in a post-chaise, beyond Hounslow, when Maclane, advancing to the post-boy, commanded him to stop, but placed himself in a direct line before the driver, lest his lordship should shoot him with a blunderbuss, with which he always travelled, for he was certain that the peer would not fire so as to endanger the life of the post-boy. In the interim Plunkett forced a pistol through the glass at the back of the chaise, and threatened instant destruction unless his lordship threw away the blunderbuss.

The danger of his situation rendered compliance necessary, and his lordship was robbed of his money and a surtout coat. After the carriage drove forward, Maclane took up the coat and blunderbuss, both of which were found in his lodgings when he was apprehended; but when he was afterwards tried for the offence which cost him his life, Lord Eglinton did not appear against him.

Notice of their next robbery—of a stage-coach—was given in the newspapers, and the articles stolen were described; yet Maclane was so much off his guard that he stripped the lace from a waistcoat, the property of one of the gentlemen who had been robbed, and happened to carry it for sale to the laceman of whom it had been purchased.

He also went to a salesman in Monmouth Street, named Loader, who attended him to his lodgings, but had no sooner seen what clothes he had to sell than he knew them to be those which had been advertised; and pretending that he had not money enough to purchase them said he would go home for more; instead of which he procured a constable, apprehended Maclane, and took him before a magistrate.

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Many persons of rank of both sexes attended his examination, several of whom were so affected with his situation that they contributed liberally towards his support.

Being committed to the Gatehouse, he requested a second examination before the magistrate, when he confessed all that was alleged against him. At his trial the jury brought him in guilty without going out of court. A youth who had been condemned, but was afterwards ordered to be transported for life, chose to continue in the cell with Maclane; and, as they had opportunity, they went among the other prisoners who were ordered for execution, to instruct them, pray with them, and assist them in their preparation for death. But Maclane was greatly shocked at the insensibility and profaneness of some, and pitied the souls which were going into eternity in so hopeless a state.

Arrived at Tyburn, he looked sadly up at the gallows, and with a heartfelt sigh exclaimed: "O Jesus!"

AMY HUTCHINSON

*Executed at Ely, 7th of November, 1750, for Petit
Treason, in the Murder of her Husband*

THE Isle of Ely gave birth to this malefactor. At the age of sixteen she was grown a tall fine girl; at which time she was addressed by a young man, whose love she returned with equal affection. Her father, being apprised of the connection, strictly charged his daughter to decline it; but there was no arguing against love: the connection continued till it became criminal.

The young fellow began to grow tired of her, and declared his resolution of going to London, but said that he would wed her on his return. Shocked at this apparent infidelity, she determined on revenge. The former lover had no sooner left her than she was addressed by a young man named John Hutchinson, and, though he had been always extremely disagreeable to her, she agreed to marry him the very next day after he had paid her a formal visit.

AMY HUTCHINSON

The consequence was that the marriage took place immediately; but her admirer happening to return from London, just as the newly wedded pair were coming out of church, the bride was greatly affected at the recollection of former scenes, and the irrevocable ceremony which had now passed.

She was unable to love the man she had married, and doted to distraction on him she had rejected; and only a few days after her marriage admitted him to his former intimacy with her: a circumstance that gave full scope to the envious tongues of her neighbours.

Hutchinson becoming jealous of his wife, a quarrel ensued; in consequence of which he beat her with great severity; but this producing no alteration in her conduct he had recourse to drinking, with a view to avoid the pain of reflection on his situation.

In the interim his wife and the young fellow continued their guilty intercourse uninterrupted; but, considering the life of her husband as a bar to their happiness, it was resolved to remove him by poison; for which purpose the wife purchased a quantity of arsenic; and Mr Hutchinson being afflicted with an ague, and wishing for something warm to drink, the wife put some arsenic in ale, of which he drank very plentifully; and then she left him, saying she would go and buy something for his dinner.

Meeting her lover, she acquainted him with what had passed; on which he advised her to buy more poison, fearing the first might not be sufficient to operate; but its effects were fatal, for he died about dinner-time on the same day.

The deceased was buried on the following Sunday, and the next day the former lover renewed his visits; which occasioned the neighbours to talk very freely of the affair. The young widow was taken into custody the same day, on suspicion of having committed a murder.

The body of the deceased being now taken up, the coroner's jury was summoned, and the verdict they gave was that John Hutchinson had died by poison: on which the woman was committed to the jail at Ely.

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She had counsel to plead for her on the trial ; but, the evidence against her being such as satisfied the jury, she was convicted, and ordered for execution.

After conviction she confessed the justice of those laws by which she had been condemned. She was attended by a clergyman, to whom she acknowledged the magnitude of her crime, and professed the most unfeigned penitence.

The miserable woman, willing to make atonement for her crimes, left a written paper with the clergyman who attended her in her last moments, on which was the following advice to her own sex :—

“ All the good I can now do, after my repentance and abhorrence of my abominable crime, and prayers to God, is :

“ First : To warn all young women to acquaint their friends when any addresses are made to them ; and, above all, if any base or immodest man dare to insult you, with anything shocking to chaste ears.

“ Secondly : That they should never leave the person they are engaged to in a pet, nor wed another to whom they are indifferent, in spite ; for if they come together without affection, the smallest matter will separate them.

“ Thirdly : That being married, all persons should mutually love, forgive and forbear, and afford no room for busy meddlers to raise and foment jealousy between two who should be one.

(Signed) “ AMY HUTCHINSON.”

JOHN VICARS

*Executed at Ely, 7th of November, 1750, for the Murder
of his Wife, after first witnessing the Strangling of
a Woman for murdering her Husband*

JOHN VICARS'S grandfather and father were born at Oxford, and lived in good credit, till misfortunes obliged them to go to Dodington, in the Isle of Ely. His father dying and leaving him young, and his mother taking a second

JOHN VICARS

husband, he had but a slight education. At thirteen he was apprenticed to Mr J. Aaron, of Holkham, Norfolk, gardener to Thomas Coke, Esq. (now Earl of Leicester), where he served his time faithfully, and was employed in the gardens, till an intrigue with a married woman obliged him to leave that place. Having a recommendation to Mr Bridgman, gardener at Kensington, he went and worked some time there, and then engaged himself to Captain Duroy, of the *Exeter* man-of-war, and served him about nine months. Being paid off, he assisted in a party of smugglers about a year, and being taken prisoner, with others, by a custom-house smack, near Rye, was committed to the New Jail, in Southwark, tried, and acquitted by the indulgence of the Court. He then was employed in the Earl of Oxford's gardens at Chelsea, under Mr Miller, where he stayed one year.

Falling into company with one Anne Easom, he made love to her and married her. They lived seven years very happily, but had no children. About that time she began to be very much afflicted with illness, which altered her temper so much that it occasioned frequent uneasiness between them, and gave him such disgust that he enlisted in the Duke of Bedford's regiment as a six months' man, where he continued about a year, and then came to his wife again and lived with her till her death, which happened about twelve months after. He continued a widower about a year, in which time, observing one Mary Hainsworth to keep a great deal of company, he asked her one evening if they were all her sweethearts; she replied no. He then offered himself, met with great encouragement, and from that time he was refused no favours. But he had no intention of marriage, nor did he promise any such thing. They continued a criminal familiarity for a fortnight, all which time she pressed him to marry her. He told her there was no occasion for her to be in such a hurry; but she replied she was with child, and if he would not marry her she would get a warrant and force him. He said he should not care to be forced to do anything against his will; on which she

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replied, if he would not marry her she would certainly make away with herself. He then kept away for two or three nights, to see how she would behave. In the meantime came a hackney-coachman to town, with whom she seemed to be so very much taken that a woman who worked in his garden told him that he had lost his sweetheart. He said he was glad of that, thinking he had got a good riddance. But he was not so fortunate; for two or three nights after this the coachman left the place; on which she flung herself in his way and, he says, he was so simple as to renew their former acquaintance, but not on the score of marriage, which she well knew, and agreed readily to keep him company. But after two or three nights she threatened him again with a warrant if he would not marry her.

At last, his affections growing stronger on her repeated assurance that she would make him a careful and industrious wife, he unfortunately married her; but not till he had earnestly desired that if there was any other person for whom she had a greater respect than himself she would consider of it, for when once married it would be too late. This unhappy woman had learned the glover's business, which she followed, and they lived very lovingly for about two months; but after that time, he says, words frequently arose between them, occasioned by her adhering to bad advice given her by her mother, and others, by some of whom, she owed to him, she was advised to poison him. From words they came to blows, to which she provoked him, though he entreated her to forbear. At length she went away from him to live with her mother, and notwithstanding the most earnest entreaties refused to return. One day, going by her mother's house with some fruit, and seeing his wife there, he went in, offered her some fruit, and forced a kiss from her, desiring to be reconciled. Her mother came in and, after giving loose to her tongue in a virulent manner, fell to beating him, swearing she would kill him, and advising his wife, who had a knife in her hand, to stab him, which she endeavoured to do; but he, feeling something against his belly, ran backwards to the door, and fell upon the

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threshold, with the old woman upon him. He rolled her off, and, getting up, found his thumb cut, a hole in his shirt, and the skin ruffled; then, thinking himself in great danger, went home. But his mother-in-law and his wife swore the peace against him, and had a warrant to take him up. Upon 24th of April, therefore, to prevent their serving it, he went to a gentleman's about three miles from Whittlesea, to beg his advice, which was to make a bill of sale of his goods and go off. He resolved to do so, and came back to Whittlesea about six o'clock the same evening. By the way, on seeing his wife in the new shop which her mother had provided for her, his heart beat with love for her, but on the thought of her obstinacy, and that his life or ruin was what they aimed at, by laying him in jail, his resentment got the better of his reason. Stepping into the shop where she was sitting at work, and placing his left hand under her chin (he apprehended she thought he was going to kiss her, because she seemed to smile) and drawing his knife out of his pocket with his other hand, he made an attempt to cut her throat, but was prevented by her putting her hands up when she felt the knife. He then placed the point of the knife under her left ear, the back part upwards, and stuck it downward as they stick sheep. She once cried: "Murder!" He said: "Molly, it is now too late, you should have been ruled in time." He then ran into the street and called out for somebody to take him prisoner, but everyone was afraid; on which he threatened if they did not he would do more mischief; on which one Thomas Boone took hold of his arm, and he surrendered himself; but appeared as a lunatic till next day, when he was very calm.

This account was signed by himself, and it being reported that he had committed more murders, he further desired it might be explained as follows.

While he was gardener to R. Man, Esq., the garden was often robbed, on which his master set him to watch one night, armed with a gun and a hanger, and fixed a trap at the supposed place of entrance. The thief came, and soon saw reason to run off; but Vicars cut him in the leg with

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his hanger; besides which he was so unfortunate as to be taken in the trap, the teeth of which, reaching about the middle of his body, struck into him, so that, being carried before a justice and committed to Maidstone Jail, he soon after died of his wounds; "but this I apprehend," says he, "cannot be deemed a murder."

While in prison he said that he dearly loved his wife, but her provocation was so great that he could not let her live, nor live without her, he first intending to kill himself also. He persisted in it that he should do the same again on such provocation, though he injured many in the same way without reluctance.

Vicars at the tree behaved very steadily, but penitent, praying with the minister and singing Psalm vi. A woman named Amy Hutchinson, who had been convicted for the murder of her husband, was present to be strangled and burnt for her crime, and Vicars expressed a desire to see her dispatched first.

Accordingly, her face and hands being smeared with tar, and having a garment daubed with pitch, after a short prayer the executioner strangled her, and twenty minutes after the fire was kindled, and burned half-an-hour. He went then to Vicars, who very undauntedly helped him to fix the knot, and immediately threw himself off, and expired in a few minutes.

JOHN CARR

*The Victim of Swindlers himself, he became a Pirate
and Smuggler, and was executed at Tyburn,
16th of November, 1750, for Forgery*

JOHN CARR was a native of the north of Ireland. His parents were respectable, and his education was genteel. At sixteen years of age he was sent to reside with a kinsman in Dublin. When he grew to years of maturity his kinsman put him into business as a wine and brandy merchant, and he seemed to be on the road to success; but his friend dying,

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he attached himself to bad company, neglected his business, lost his customers and was soon greatly reduced in his circumstances.

A man of fortune who was one of his abandoned associates invited Carr to pass part of the summer at his seat in the country, and setting out together they stopped at Kilkenny, where some passengers quitted a coach; among whom was a young lady, whose elegant person and appearance impressed Carr with an idea that she was of rank, and inspired him with the first sentiments of love that he ever felt.

Throwing himself from his horse, he handed her into the inn; and a proposal being made that the company should sup together it was agreed to on all hands; and while the supper was preparing, Carr applied himself to the coachman, to learn the history of the young lady; but all the information he could obtain was that he had taken her up at Dublin, and that she was going to the Spa at Mallow.

Carr, being anxious to become better acquainted with the lady, prevailed on the company to repose themselves the next day at Kilkenny, and take a view of the Duke of Ormond's seat, and the curiosities of the town. This proposal being acceded to, the evening was spent in the utmost harmony and good humour; and the fair stranger, even then, conceived an idea of making a conquest of Mr Carr, from whose appearance she judged that he was a man of distinction.

In the morning she dressed herself to great advantage, not forgetting the ornament of jewels, which she wore in abundance; so that when she entered the room, Carr was astonished at her appearance. She found the influence she had over him, and resolved to afford him an early opportunity of speaking his sentiments; and while the company was walking in the gallery of the Duke of Ormond's palace this opportunity offered.

The lady affected displeasure at this explicit declaration, but soon assuming a more affable deportment she told him she was an Englishwoman of rank; that his person was not

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disagreeable to her, and that if he was a man of fortune, and the consent of her relations could be obtained, she should not be averse to listening to his addresses. She further said that she was going to spend part of the summer at Mallow, where his company would be agreeable.

He followed her to that place, contrary to the advice of his friend, who had formed a very unfavourable opinion of the lady's character.

Here he dissipated so much cash in company with this woman that he was compelled to borrow of his friend, who remonstrated on the impropriety of the connection: but Carr still kept her company, and at the end of the season returned with her to Dublin.

Here the lovers agreed to sail for England, and Carr sold some small estates, and, borrowing all the money he possibly could, delivered the whole to his mistress.

Preparations were now made for the voyage, and Carr employed himself in procuring a passage to England; but in his absence the lady shipped all the effects on board a vessel bound for Amsterdam; and, having dressed herself in man's apparel, she embarked and sailed, leaving Carr to regret his ill-judged credulity.

On his return home, discovering how he had been robbed, he was at first half-distracted with his loss; but, on cooler reflection, he thought it would be in vain to pursue the thief; on which he sold the few trifles that remained of his property, which produced about a hundred pounds, and came to London, and soon spent the whole in debauchery and extravagance.

Thus reduced, he enlisted as a foot soldier, and served some years before he was discharged; after which he entered as a marine at Plymouth, whence he came to London, and opened a shop in Hog Lane, St Giles's. He now married a girl who he thought had money, but soon discovering her poverty he abandoned her, and removed to Short's Gardens, where he entered into partnership with a cork-cutter.

Having soon ingratiated himself into the esteem of the customers, he opened a shop on his own account, and soon

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got all the business from his late partner. This, however, proved of no service to him, for, getting into bad company, he frequented the gaming-tables and became the dupe of sharpers.

These villains, determined to possess themselves of all his money, offered to procure him a wife of fortune, though they knew he had a wife living, and actually contrived to introduce him to a young lady of property; and a marriage would probably have taken place but that one of them, struck with remorse of conscience, developed the affair to her father and frustrated the whole scheme; and soon afterwards Carr's companions quitted him, having reduced him to the last shilling.

Having been entrusted by a gentleman with a draft on the bank for sixty pounds, he received the money and spent it all in the lowest scenes of debauchery, and again entered as a marine.

There being something in his deportment superior to the vulgar, he was advanced to the rank of sergeant, in which he behaved so well that his officers treated him with singular regard.

The vessel in which he sailed taking a merchant ship richly laden, and soon afterwards several smaller vessels, the prize-money amounted to a considerable sum; which gave Carr an idea that very great advantages might be obtained by privateering. Thereupon he procured a discharge, and entering on board a privateer was made master-at-arms.

In a few days the privateer took two French ships, one of which they carried to Bristol and the other into the harbour of Poole. Having refitted their ship they sailed again, and in two days took a French privateer, and gave chase to three others which they found to be English vessels belonging to Falmouth, which had been made prize of by a French privateer. These they retook, and carried them into Falmouth, in their passage to which place they made prize of a valuable French ship, the amount of which contributed to enrich the crew.

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On their next trip they saw a ship in full chase of them, on which they prepared for a vigorous defence, and indeed it was necessary, for the vessels fought above forty minutes—yardarm and yardarm. Many hands were lost by the French, who at length attempted to sheer off, but were taken after a chase of some leagues.

The commander of the English privateer, being desperately wounded in the engagement, died in a few days; on which Carr courted his widow, and a marriage would have taken place, but she was seized with a violent fever which deprived her of life, but not before she had bequeathed him all she was possessed of.

Having disposed of her effects, he repaired to London, where he commenced as smuggler; but on his ill-gotten effects being seized on by the officers of the revenue he took to the more dangerous practice of forging seamen's wills, and gained money for some time. But, being apprehended, he was brought to trial at the Old Bailey, convicted, and sentenced to die. He was hanged at Tyburn, on the 16th of November, 1750.

GEORGE ANDERSON *ALIAS* JOHN EVERETT

*Who picked Pockets at Newgate, became a Highwayman,
and was executed for stealing Ribbons,
31st December, 1750*

JOHN EVERETT was a native of Hertford, in which town he served his apprenticeship to a baker. The young men in the neighbourhood declined associating with him, and held him in universal abhorrence, so ungracious were his manners and so strong was his propensity to wickedness.

Upon the expiration of his apprenticeship he connected himself with a gang of notorious gamblers and other dissolute wretches, in conjunction with whom he perpetrated a great number of villainies, but for several years escaped the vengeance of the law.

GEORGE ANDERSON *ALIAS* JOHN EVERETT

By persuasions and the promise of a sum of money Everett and a man named Wright induced a young woman to make a charge of felony against two innocent men, who were put on their trial, but happily acquitted, as the perjured evidence was not able to authenticate her accusation. In revenge for their failing to supply the girl with the money they had promised she lodged an information against Everett and Wright, who were in consequence indicted for subornation of perjury, and sentenced to stand in the pillory at the end of Chancery Lane, where they received very severe treatment from the populace.

Soon after the above punishment had been inflicted Everett was tried at Hicks's Hall, and sentenced again to stand in the pillory, for having fraudulently obtained a thirty-six-shilling piece. He was afterwards convicted of having circulated counterfeit Portugal coin, and ordered to be imprisoned for two years in Newgate.

Soon after Everett's trial a company of gentlemen went to Newgate to visit a criminal, and in a short time they discovered that they had been robbed of their handkerchiefs. The circumstance being mentioned to Everett, he pretended to be much surprised, and intimated that there was but little probability of the property being recovered. However in a little time he produced the handkerchiefs, and received some money from the gentlemen as a reward for his supposed honesty.

While he remained in Newgate he picked the pockets of almost every person who came to visit the prisoners. He was continually uttering the most reprobate speeches, and seemed to delight in the practice of every species of wickedness. Upon the expiration of the time he was sentenced to remain in prison he found sureties for his good behaviour for two years, and was discharged.

Having stopped a young gentleman in Fleet Street, he was asked if a robbery was intended, upon which he knocked the gentleman down; but a large dog belonging to the injured party immediately seized the villain, who,

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with great difficulty, disengaged himself just in time to escape being secured by the watch.

Everett and a woman of the town went to a small inn at Hoddesdon, in Hertfordshire, which was kept by an old widow, and being invited into a room behind the bar, after having each drunk a glass of wine, the widow and her female guest went to walk in the garden. In the meantime Everett broke open a bureau and stole sixty pounds in cash and several gold rings. They kept the widow in conversation till the time of going to bed, in order to divert her from going to the bureau, and the next morning decamped with their booty. They took the road to Nottingham, whence they crossed the country to Newmarket, and then returned to London.

Everett's numerous villainies had rendered his name so notorious that he was fearful of being apprehended, and therefore he went under the name of George Anderson, and lived in a very private manner till the money he had obtained was expended.

He now procured a knife eighteen inches long, and determined to levy contributions on passengers on the highway. On the road between Kentish Town and Hampstead he attempted to rob a countryman; but he being of an intrepid temper a desperate contest ensued, in which Everett proved the conqueror, and dangerously wounded his antagonist, from whom he, however, obtained but a small booty.

At length he was detected in stealing a quantity of ribbons in a shop in London, and was apprehended, but not without making a vigorous resistance, in doing which he dangerously wounded the shopkeeper in the face and hands with a knife.

For this crime he was tried at the Old Bailey, convicted, and received sentence of death. The night after the warrant for his execution arrived he laid a plan to escape. He was furnished with implements for this purpose, and for sawing off his fetters, by his wife and his kept mistress, who, on this occasion, agreed. Being discovered, the former was sent

WILLIAM RILEY

to one of the computers, and his concubine to the other. On this he behaved so insolently and outrageously that it was necessary to chain him to the floor of his cell, where he remained, blaspheming and threatening vengeance to the keeper and turnkeys, until he was brought out for execution.

WILLIAM RILEY

A young Soldier, whose Zeal for Sport led to a Murder, for which he was executed at Tyburn in 1750

WILLIAM RILEY served the greater part of his apprenticeship to a watchmaker at Liverpool, but on his master dying he turned his mind to the sea, and sailed one voyage, which it appears was sufficient to induce him to quit the watery element for the service of the land ; and to this end he enlisted into the second regiment of Foot Guards.

Walking matches, now lately revived, were in great vogue. Considerable bets were depending on a man walking three hundred miles in six days—a feat little inferior to Captain Barclay's thousand miles in as many successive hours. This wager was determined in Tothill Fields, Westminster, in favour of the pedestrian.

Riley, also a great walker, was so much interested in the man's success that he undertook to clear the way ; but on the last day the crowd became so great that he, in his anxiety, struck several who did not fall back, and among the rest one Sutton, who returned the blow, whereupon a scuffle ensued, and Riley, being thrown down by the mob, drew his sword and stabbed him, of which wound he died, and Riley was found guilty of wilful murder.

After sentence of death he was very penitent, and expressed his deep contrition for taking away the life of a fellow-creature. He was executed, along with George Robins, George Anderson and Thomas Reynolds, when only nineteen years of age.

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WILLIAM PARSONS, Esq.

Eldest Son of a Baronet, who became a Swindler and Highway Robber, and was executed for returning from Transportation, 11th of February, 1751

THE unhappy subject of this narrative was the eldest son of Sir William Parsons, Bart., of the county of Nottingham, and was born in London in the year 1717. He was placed under the care of a pious and learned divine at Pepper Harrow, in Surrey, where he received the first rudiments of education. In a little more than three years he was removed to Eton College, where it was intended that he should qualify himself for one of the universities; but his misconduct prevented his friends from carrying out their intentions in this respect, for having been detected in various acts of petty pilfering he was dismissed the school and sent home to his father. An appointment as midshipman was now procured for him on board a ship bound for Jamaica, from which he soon deserted however.

His figure being pleasing, and his manner of address easy and polite, he found but little difficulty in recommending himself to the ladies, and he became greatly enamoured of a beautiful and accomplished young lady, the daughter of a physician in Waltham, of considerable practice, and prevailed upon her to promise that she would yield to him her hand in marriage.

News of the intended alliance coming to the knowledge of his father and of his uncle, the latter directly hastened to Waltham to prevent a union which would have produced consequences of the worst character to the contracting parties, and, having apprised the friends of the young lady with the condition and situation of the intended bridegroom, their consent was withdrawn, and our hero was with some difficulty induced to rejoin his ship. Restless, however, in his new employment, he had scarcely reached Jamaica when he determined that he would desert and return to England; and the sailing of the *Sheerness* man-of-war for

WILLIAM PARSONS

that place afforded him an opportunity of carrying his design into execution, of which he lost no time in availing himself. A new effort to obtain the hand of his former love was as unsuccessful as that which he had first made ; and his uncle, having ascertained the fact of his presence in England, induced him at once to go back to the residence of his father, with promises of future amendment. For a time his determination to alter his course of life was obeyed ; but soon again launching forth into habits of irregularity, he was dispatched as midshipman on board the *Romney*, for the coast of Newfoundland. On his revisiting England after an absence of some years he was mortified to learn that the Duchess of Northumberland, to whom he was distantly related, had revoked a will in his favour which she had made, and had bequeathed to his sister the fortune which he knew had been intended for him. And now, finding himself spurned by his friends, he was soon reduced to a condition of absolute necessity. Through the friendly intervention of a Mr Bailey, however, he procured an engagement at James Fort, on the River Gambia ; but here, as in all other situations, unfortunate, he contrived to engage himself in a quarrel, in consequence of which he was compelled to return to Europe—a step, however, which he was enabled to take only by setting at defiance the commands of the Governor Aufleur that he should not quit the colony—taking his passage under an assumed name on board a homeward-bound trader.

Arrived in London, he found no friend to whom he could apply for assistance or relief ; but at length discovering the residence of his father he went to him, and implored some aid, even if he should not give him any further countenance. Five shillings and advice to enter a horse regiment as a private were all that he could obtain however, and, rendered wretched by his miserable condition, the grave appeared to be the only resource to which he could look for consolation. But a thought suggested itself in time to prevent his rashly taking away his life—that he should represent himself as his brother, who had recently come into a fortune ; and under

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the pretext that he was entitled to the legacy he committed frauds upon various tradesmen to a considerable amount. His impudence and his ingenuity were now required to be exerted in order to relieve him from the difficulty in which he was involved in consequence of this proceeding, but his good fortune, in throwing him in the way of a young lady of good fortune, to whom he was married, placed in his power the means of retrieving his lost character and his degraded position. The marriage was solemnised on the 10th of February, 1740; and the intercession of his friends, to whom he was now with difficulty again reconciled, procured for him an ensigncy in the 34th Regiment of Foot from the Right Honourable Arthur Onslow.

He appeared at this time to be desirous of reappearing in that position in society to which his birth entitled him; but, having hired a house in Poland Street, his extravagant mode of living again, in the course of a few years, reduced him to a condition of great distress. He was compelled to sell his commission in order to recruit his shattered finances, and then, in order to meet new demands, he was guilty of various forgeries, upon which he procured money to a very large amount. For two years he pursued new plans of iniquity with considerable success, but then, being apprehended in the act of putting off a forged draft, he was committed to Maidstone Jail, and, having been convicted at the ensuing assizes, was sentenced to be transported for seven years. In the month of September, 1749, he was put on board the Thames transport bound for Maryland, and in the following November he was landed at Annapolis, in that place. He was now guilty of new offences, even more criminal than those which he had before committed, and having first ridden off with a horse belonging to the person to whom he was assigned as a servant, and committed several robberies, he shaped his course to Potomac, from whence he immediately sailed for England.

That refuge for the destitute of all classes at this period, "the road," was now the only resource left to our hero, and for a time he pursued his new occupation with infinite

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determination and proportionate success ; but at length, having attempted to rob Mr Fuller, the gentleman by whom he had before been prosecuted, he was recognised by him, and, being vigorously attacked, was at length compelled to surrender, and was secured and committed to Newgate.

It was not necessary to prove any new offence against him at his trial, but all that was required was to identify him as a transported felon who had returned to England before the termination of the period for which he had been sentenced to be banished ; and this being done, he was declared to have forfeited his life to the laws of his country. His distressed father and wife used all their interest to obtain for him a pardon, but in vain : he was an old offender, and judged by no means a fit object for mercy. He suffered at Tyburn, on 11th of February, 1751.

JOHN CAULFIELD

*Murder foretold by a Dream, in consequence of which the
Murderer was apprehended, convicted, and
executed at Waterford in 1751*

ONE Adam Rogers, a creditable man, who kept a public-house at Portlaw, a small village nine or ten miles from Waterford, in Ireland, dreamed one night that he saw two men at a particular green spot on an adjacent mountain ; one of them a sickly-looking man, the other remarkably strong and large. He then fancied that he saw the little man murder the other, and he awoke in great agitation. The circumstances of the dream were so distinct and forcible that he continued much affected by them. He related them to his wife and also to several neighbours next morning. After some time he went out coursing with greyhounds, accompanied, amongst others, by one Mr Browne, the Roman Catholic priest of the parish. He soon stopped at the above-mentioned particular green spot on the mountain, and, calling to Mr Browne, pointed it out to him, and told him what had appeared in his dream. During the

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remainder of the day he thought little more about it. Next morning he was extremely startled at seeing two strangers enter his house about eleven o'clock in the forenoon. He immediately ran into an inner room, and desired his wife to take particular notice, for they were precisely the two men whom he had seen in his dream.

When they had consulted with one another, their apprehensions were alarmed for the little weakly man, though contrary to the appearance in the dream. After the strangers had taken some refreshment and were about to depart, in order to prosecute their journey, Rogers earnestly endeavoured to dissuade the little man from quitting his house and going on with his fellow-traveller. He assured him that if he would remain with him that day he would accompany him to Carrick next morning, that being the town to which the travellers were proceeding. He was unwilling and ashamed to tell the cause of his being so solicitous to separate him from his companion. But as he observed that Hickey, which was the name of the little man, seemed to be quiet and gentle in his deportment, and had money about him, and that the other had a ferocious bad countenance, the dream still recurred to him. He dreaded that something fatal would happen, and he wished, at all events, to keep them asunder. However, the humane precautions of Rogers proved ineffectual; for John Caulfield—the other's name—prevailed upon Hickey to continue with him on their way to Carrick, declaring that, as they had long travelled together, they should not part, but remain together until he should see Hickey safely arrive at the habitation of his friends. The wife of Rogers was much dissatisfied when she found they were gone, and blamed her husband exceedingly for not being absolutely peremptory in detaining Hickey.

About an hour after they left Portlaw, in a lonely part of the mountain, just near the place observed by Rogers in his dream, Caulfield took the opportunity of murdering his companion. It appeared afterwards, from his own account of the horrid transaction, that as they were getting over a

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ditch he struck Hickey on the back part of his head with a stone, and when he fell down into the trench, in consequence of the blow, Caulfield gave him several stabs with a knife, and cut his throat so deeply that the head was almost severed from the body. He then rifled Hickey's pockets of all the money in them, took part of his clothes, and everything else of value about him, and afterwards proceeded on his way to Carrick. He had not been long gone when the body, still warm, was discovered by some labourers who were returning to their work from dinner.

The report of the murder soon reached Portlaw. Rogers and his wife went to the place, and instantly knew the body of him whom they had in vain endeavoured to dissuade from going on with his treacherous companion. They at once spoke out their suspicions that the murder was perpetrated by the fellow-traveller of the deceased. An immediate search was made, and Caulfield was apprehended at Waterford the second day after. He was brought to trial at the ensuing assizes and convicted of the fact. It appeared on the trial, amongst other circumstances, that when he arrived at Carrick he hired a horse and a boy to conduct him, not by the usual road, but by that which runs on the north side of the River Suir, to Waterford, intending to take his passage in the first ship from thence to Newfoundland. The boy took notice of some blood on his shirt, and Caulfield gave him half-a-crown to promise not to speak of it. Rogers proved not only that Hickey was seen last in company with Caulfield, but that a pair of new shoes which Hickey wore had been found on the feet of Caulfield when he was apprehended; and that a pair of old shoes which he had on at Rogers's house were upon Hickey's feet when the body was found. He described with great exactness every article of their clothes. Caulfield, on cross-examination, shrewdly asked him from the dock whether it was not very extraordinary that he, who kept a public-house, should take such particular notice of the dress of a stranger accidentally calling there. Rogers, in his answer, said he had a very particular reason, but was ashamed to mention it. The

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Court and prisoner insisting on his declaring it, he gave a circumstantial narrative of his dream, called upon Mr Browne, the priest, who was then in the court, to corroborate his testimony, and said that his wife had severely reproached him for permitting Hickey to leave their house when he knew that in the short footway to Carrick they must necessarily pass by the green spot in the mountain which had appeared in his dream. A number of witnesses came forward; and the proofs were so strong that the jury, without hesitation, found the panel guilty. It was remarked as a singularity that he happened to be tried and sentenced by his namesake, Sir George Caulfield, at that time Lord Chief Justice of the King's Bench, which office he resigned in the summer of the year 1760.

After sentence Caulfield confessed the fact. It came out that Hickey had been in the West Indies two-and-twenty years, but falling into a bad state of health he was returning to his native country, Ireland, bringing with him some money his industry had acquired. The vessel on board which he took his passage was, by stress of weather, driven into Minch Head. He there met with Frederick Caulfield, an Irish sailor, who was poor, and much distressed for clothes and common necessities. Hickey, compassionating his poverty, and finding he was his countryman, relieved his wants, and an intimacy commenced between them. They agreed to go to Ireland together. And it was remarked that on their passage Caulfield spoke contemptuously, and often said it was a pity such a puny fellow as Hickey should have money and he himself be without a shilling. They landed at Waterford, at which place they stayed some days, Caulfield being all the time supported by Hickey, who bought there some clothes for him.

Caulfield walked to the gallows with a firm step and undaunted countenance, being executed at Waterford in 1751.

THOMAS COLLEY

*Executed 24th of April, 1751, for the Murder of People
who were reputed to be possessed of Witchcraft*

ON the 18th of April, 1751, a man named Nichols went to William Dell, the crier of Hemel Hempstead, in Hertfordshire, and delivered to him a piece of paper, with fourpence, to cry the words which were written on the paper, a copy of which is as follows:—

“This is to give notice that on Monday next a man and a woman are to be publicly ducked at Tring, in this county, for their wicked crimes.”

This notice was given at Winslow and Leighton Buzzard, as well as at Hemel Hempstead, on the respective market-days, and was heard by Mr Barton, overseer of the parish of Tring, who, being informed that the persons intended to be ducked were John Osborne and Ruth, his wife, and having no doubt of the good character of both the parties, sent them to the workhouse as a protection from the rage of the mob.

On the day appointed for the practice of the infernal ceremony an immense number of people, supposed to be not fewer than five thousand, assembled near the workhouse at Tring, vowing revenge against Osborne and his wife, as a wizard and witch, and demanding that they should be delivered up to their fury: they likewise pulled down a wall belonging to the workhouse, and broke the windows and their frames.

On the preceding evening the master of the workhouse, suspecting some violence, from what he had heard of the disposition of the people, sent Osborne and his wife to the vestry-room belonging to the church, as a place the most likely to secure them from insult.

The mob would not give credit to the master of the workhouse that the parties were removed, but rushing into the house searched it through, examining the closets, boxes, trunks, and even the salt-box, in search of them. There

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being a hole in the ceiling which appeared to have been left by the plasterers, Colley, who was one of the most active of the gang, cried out : " Let us search the ceiling." This being done by Charles Young, with as little success as before, they swore they would pull down the house and set fire to the whole town of Tring unless Osborne and his wife were produced.

The master of the workhouse, apprehensive that they would carry their threats into execution, informed them where the poor people were concealed ; on which the whole mob, with Colley at their head, went to the church and brought them off in triumph.

This being done, the mob conducted them to a pond called Marlston Mere, where the man and woman were separately tied up in a cloth ; then a rope was bound round the body of the woman, under her armpits, and two men dragged her into the pond and through it several times, Colley going into the pond and, with a stick, turning her from side to side.

Having ducked her repeatedly in this manner, they placed her by the side of the pond and dragged the old man in and ducked him ; then he was put by, and the woman ducked again as before, Colley making the same use of his stick. With this cruelty the husband was treated twice over and the wife three times, during the last of which the cloth in which she was wrapped came off and she appeared quite naked.

Not satisfied with this barbarity, Colley pushed his stick against her breast. The poor woman attempted to lay hold of it, but, her strength being now exhausted, she expired on the spot. Then Colley went round the pond collecting money of the populace for the sport he had shown them in ducking the old witch, as he called her.

Colley was taken into custody, and when his trial came on, there being a variety of strong proofs of the prisoner's guilt, he was convicted, and received sentence of death.

The day before his execution he was removed from the jail of Hertford, under the escort of one hundred men of the Oxford Blues, commanded by seven officers, and being

WILLIAM DELLICOT

lodged in the jail of St Albans was put in a chaise at five o'clock the next morning, with the hangman, and reached the place of execution about eleven, where his wife and daughter came to take leave of him; and the minister of Tring assisted him in his last moments, when he died exhibiting all the marks of unfeigned penitence.

His body was hung in chains at a place called Gubblecut, near where the offence was committed.

Still more surprising it is to find that the dangerous absurdity of the belief in witchcraft was manifested in England in the beginning of the more enlightened nineteenth century. Two ignorant and deluded people, H. Ibbelson and his wife, were committed to Wakefield House of Correction for violently assaulting and wounding E. Berry, their niece, who had been lately married.

These ignorant people, having conceived the idea that the young woman had bewitched them, formed a plan to draw blood from her, in order to dispel the charm; and meeting with her in the market-place they both suddenly assailed her, the woman biting and scratching her, while the husband stabbed her in the body.

WILLIAM DELLICOT

*Convicted of Petty Larceny, in July, 1751, and his
Estate forfeited for stealing a Penny*

WILLIAM DELLICOT was convicted at the Quarter Sessions, July, 1751, for Salisbury (Wiltshire), of petty larceny, for stealing one penny, whereby his effects, consisting of bank-notes of one hundred and eighty pounds and twenty guineas in money, were forfeited to the bishop as lord of the manor; but his lordship *humanely* ordered one hundred pounds of the money to be put to interest for the benefit of the *wretch's* daughter, twenty pounds to be given to his aged father, and the remainder to be returned to the delinquent himself.

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Thus have we shown the punishment for stealing a single penny. Now then let us look at that of a public defaulter, to the amount of thousands and tens of thousands of pounds. The following, taken from the term's notes, is the sentence passed upon this wholesale speculator:—

“ In the Court of King's Bench, on the 19th of June, 1809, Valentine Jones, Esq., late Commissary-General in the West Indies, was brought up to receive the judgment of the Court, having been found guilty of fraud and speculation, to the amount of eighty-seven thousand one hundred and seventy-nine pounds, being *but a moiety* of the sum of which the country had been defrauded by his collusion with Mr Mathew Higgins. Judge Gross, after commenting upon the enormity of the offence, said that whatever other proceedings might be instituted, it was the duty of the Court to pass such sentence as would be likely to prevent future speculation, and therefore adjudged him to be imprisoned three years in his Majesty's jail of Newgate, and be incapacitated from serving his Majesty in future.”

JAMES WELCH AND THOMAS JONES

*Executed on Kennington Common, 6th of September, 1751,
for Murder¹*

WE come to execute the task of proving the innocence of Richard Coleman, who, our readers will recollect, suffered death for the murder of Sarah Green.

Two years had passed since Coleman had been ignominiously laid in his grave before his memory was rescued from disgrace. Circumstances then, and not before, arose which proved that James Welch, Thomas Jones and John Nichols (the latter of whom was admitted as evidence for the Crown) committed this abhorred murder; and the discovery without a search, so inscrutable are the ways of Providence, was thus effected:

Welch, one of the murderers, and a young fellow named James Bush, while walking on the road to Newington Butts,

JAMES WELCH AND THOMAS JONES

their conversation happened to turn on the subject of those who had been executed without being guilty; and Welch said: "Among whom was Coleman. Nichols, Jones and I were the persons who committed the murder for which he was hanged." In the course of conversation Welch owned that, having been at a public-house called Sot's Hole, they had drunk plentifully, and on their return through Kennington Lane they met with a woman, with whom they went as far as the Parsonage Walk, near the churchyard of Newington, where she was so horridly abused by Nichols and Jones that Welch declined offering her any further insult.

Bush did not at that time appear to pay any particular attention to what he had heard, but soon afterwards, as he was crossing London Bridge with his father, he addressed him as follows: "Father, I have been extremely ill; and as I am afraid I shall not live long, I should be glad to reveal something that lies heavy on my mind."

Thereupon they went to a public-house in the Borough, where Bush related his story to his father, which was scarcely ended when, seeing Jones at the window, they called him in and desired him to drink with them.

He had not been long in their company when they told him they had heard he was one of the murderers of Sarah Green, on whose account Coleman had suffered death. Jones trembled and turned pale on hearing what they said; but soon assuming a degree of courage said: "What does it signify? The man is hanged and the woman dead, and nobody can hurt us." To which he added: "We were connected with a woman, but who can tell that was the woman Coleman died for?"

In consequence of this acknowledgment Nichols, Jones and Welch were soon afterwards apprehended, when all of them steadily denied their guilt; and, the hearsay testimony of Bush being all that could be adduced against them, Nichols was admitted evidence for the Crown. In consequence of which all the particulars of the horrid murder were developed.

The prisoners being brought to trial at the next assizes

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for the county of Surrey, Nichols deposed that he, with Welch and Jones, having been drinking at the house called Sot's Hole on the night that the woman was used in such an inhuman manner, they quitted that house in order to return home, when, meeting a woman, they asked her if she would drink; which she declined unless they would go to the King's Head, where she would treat them with a pot of beer.

Thereupon they went and drank both beer and geneva with her, and then, all the parties going forward to the Parsonage Walk, the poor woman was treated in a manner too shocking to be described. It appeared that at the time of the perpetration of the fact the murderers wore white aprons, and that Jones and Welch called Nichols by the name of Coleman—circumstances that evidently led to the conviction of the unfortunate man of that name.

On the whole state of the evidence there seemed to be no doubt of the guilt of the prisoners, so that the jury did not hesitate to convict them, and sentence of death was passed of course.

After conviction these malefactors behaved with the utmost contrition, being attended by the Rev. Dr Howard, Rector of St George's, Southwark, to whom they readily confessed their offences. They likewise signed a declaration, which they begged might be published, containing the fullest assertion of Coleman's innocence. They were executed on Kennington Common, on 6th of September, 1751.

MATHIAS KEYS

*Executed on Kennington Common, 6th of September, 1751,
for Highway Robbery*

MATHIAS KEYS was the son of an inn-holder of good repute at Billericay, in Essex, who placed him apprentice to a vintner; and when his time had expired—which, however, was not passed without censure—placed him in a respectable inn at Bristol.

MATHIAS KEYS

The house had long been well frequented, but Keys, presuming upon being a "mother's darling," was more addicted to horse-racing, cocking and gaming than to attending to his guests. It is therefore little to be wondered at that such men become bankrupts, and so with him a failure soon happened.

He fled from his creditors, taking with him every portable valuable he possessed, and came to London. There, among other profligate young fellows, he became intimate with one William Russel, then an unworthy articled clerk to an attorney of good practice in Air Street, Piccadilly. In company with this reprobate he committed divers highway robberies; but the career of Russel was very short, for he was hanged ere he had attained manhood.

In the month of August, 1747, Keys was apprehended for a highway robbery, was tried, and condemned to death at Chelmsford; but no other crimes being then alleged against him, though he had committed many, his sentence was remitted on condition of transporting himself for life.

On the 14th of November, 1747, he entered on board a man-of-war, on the point of sailing to the East Indies, under Admiral Boscwan, and performed his duty with much bravery at the siege of Pondicherry, where he lost an eye. With his ship he returned to England, and immediately again commenced highwayman.

He committed a daring robbery on two gentlemen in a post-chaise, in the vicinity of London, who had pistols with them, but were taken with too much surprise to be able to use them. No sooner however had he ridden off with his booty than, with the assistance of the post-boy, they quickly unyoked the horses and galloped after him.

Unapprehensive of pursuit he was riding at a moderate pace, waiting to levy his contributions on the next travellers. They seized him, in their turn, before he could make resistance, brought him to London, and prosecuted and convicted him, having found the money upon him of which but a few minutes before he had robbed them. He was hanged on Kennington Common, on 6th of September, 1751.

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WILLIAM BAKER

*A City Merchant, executed at Tyburn, 31st of December, 1751,
for forging an East India Warrant in order to
avoid Bankruptcy*

WILLIAM BAKER was born in Cannon Street, where his father kept a baker's shop, and lived in good reputation. The youth was educated at the Merchant Taylors' School, and at the usual age bound apprentice to a grocer in a considerable way of business; and he proved so faithful and diligent a servant that soon after the time of his apprenticeship had expired his master admitted him an equal partner in his trade.

Having carried on the grocery trade for about seven years, he declined that business and connected himself in partnership with Mr Carter, a sugar-baker, and by this new undertaking he flattered himself in the expectation of speedily acquiring a fortune.

About the period of his commencing as sugar-baker he married one of his cousins, who was the daughter of a clergyman in Northamptonshire, and with her he received a handsome fortune. For several years he fulfilled all his engagements with the greatest punctuality, and was supposed to be possessed of considerable property.

He attended the sales of the East India Company's goods, and frequently purchased very large quantities of teas, and he had extensive dealings in other articles. But he often sustained considerable loss by the sale of his goods, and his circumstances at length became so embarrassed that he was under apprehension that a commission of bankruptcy would issue against him.

He flattered himself, however, that, if he could support his credit for a short time, matters would take a more favourable turn and his circumstances be retrieved. His anxiety to avoid a bankruptcy induced Mr Baker to forge an East India warrant for goods to the amount of nine hundred and twenty-two pounds. But it must be remarked that the

WILLIAM STROUD

forgery was not committed with any intention to defraud, but merely to raise a supply for present exigencies.

Mr Baker passed the counterfeit warrant into the hands of Mr Holland, who sent it to the India House, where the forgery was detected, and Baker was in consequence apprehended.

Baker being put on his trial at the Old Bailey, several gentlemen of reputation appeared on his behalf, and spoke to his character in the most favourable terms; but both the forgery and the uttering the counterfeit warrant having been proved against him by indisputable testimony, and strongly corroborating circumstances, he of course was condemned to suffer death. Being conveyed to Tyburn in a mourning-coach, he appeared to be in a composed state of mind, and entirely resigned to his fate.

WILLIAM STROUD

A Notorious Impostor, who was Six Times whipped through the Streets of Westminster, in the Month of March, 1752

WILLIAM STROUD was well born and educated, but very early in life took to little tricks of cheating. When but a schoolboy he used to purloin blank leaves from the books of his companions, and was remarkable for robbing them of their marbles.

This disposition continued while he was an apprentice; and at length he embarked in business for himself. But he had not been long a master before he considered trade as a drudgery; on which he sold off his stock, took lodgings in Bond Street, and assumed the character of a fine gentleman.

He now lived in a most expensive manner, supplying the extravagances of women of ill-fame. This soon reducing him to indigent circumstances, he fixed on a plan of defrauding individuals; for which purpose he got credit with a tailor for some elegant suits of apparel, took a genteel house, and hired some servants, by which he imposed himself upon the public as a man of large estate.

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An extensive credit and a splendid mode of living were the consequences of his elegant appearance; but some tradesmen bringing in bills, which he was equally unable and unwilling to discharge, he sold off his household furniture and privately decamped.

He now took handsome lodgings in Bloomsbury, and dressing himself in velvet clothes he pretended to be the steward of a nobleman of high rank. He likewise took a house in Westminster, in which he placed an agent, who ordered in goods as for the nobleman; and the tradesmen who delivered these goods were directed to leave their bills for the examination of the steward. But the effects were no sooner in possession than they were sold to a broker, to the great loss of the respective tradesmen.

Stroud used to travel into the country in summer, and, having learned the names of London traders with whom people of fortune dealt, he used to write in their names for goods; but, constantly meeting the wagons that conveyed them, generally received the effects before they reached the places to which they were directed. London and the country were equally laid under contribution by him; and jewellers, watchmakers, lacemen, tailors, drapers, upholders, silversmiths, silk-mercers, hatters, hosiers, etc., were frequent dupes to his artifices.

He was at length apprehended as a common cheat, and committed to the Gatehouse, Westminster. On his examination a coachmaker charged him with defrauding him of a gilt chariot, a jeweller of rings to the amount of a hundred pounds, a tailor of a suit of velvet trimmed with gold, a cabinetmaker of some valuable goods in his branch, and several other tradesmen of various articles.

The grand jury having found bills of indictment against him, he was tried at the Westminster Sessions, when witnesses who had been duped and plundered by him appeared to give their evidence; and he was instantly found guilty.

The Court sentenced him to hard labour in Bridewell for six months, and in that time to be whipped through

ELIZABETH JEFFRIES AND JOHN SWAN

the streets six times; which was inflicted with the severity which they intended. He was scourged so as to be made an example to others in the like cases offending.

ELIZABETH JEFFRIES AND JOHN SWAN

Deprived of her Uncle's valuable Estate, the Woman and an Accomplice shot him dead after paying another Man to commit the Crime. Executed in Epping Forest, 28th of March, 1752

THE case of these offenders is one of the greatest atrocity. Elizabeth Jeffries was the niece of a gentleman of respectability residing at Walthamstow, who, having acquired an ample fortune, and having no children, adopted his brother's daughter, and made a will in her favour, bequeathing to her nearly his whole estate. The girl, however, returned her uncle's kindness with ingratitude; and, having heard him declare that he would alter his will on account of her bad behaviour, she determined to prevent his carrying his design to her detriment into execution by murdering him. She soon discovered her inability to complete this project single-handed, and she gained the assistance of her accomplice in the crime, John Swan, who was in the employment of her uncle, and with whom there is good reason to believe she was on terms of intimacy. They endeavoured to suborn a simple fellow named Matthews to assist them, but although the promise of a large reward at first staggered him, his terrors eventually steeled him against the temptations held out to him. The night of the 3rd of July, 1751, was fixed upon for the completion of this villainy; and at the trial, which took place at Chelmsford, before Mr Justice Wright, on the 11th of March, 1752, the following facts were proved:—

Matthews, having travelled from Yorkshire, was accidentally met in Epping Forest by Mr Jeffries, who gave him employment as an assistant to Swan, who was his gardener. After he had been at work only four days he was sent upstairs

NEWGATE CALENDAR

by Miss Jeffries to wipe a chest of drawers, and she followed him and asked him if he was willing to earn one hundred pounds. He answered that he was, "in an honest way"; on which she desired him to go to Swan. He accordingly joined him in the garden, and he offered him seven hundred pounds to murder their master. He acquiesced. On his being dismissed, two days afterwards, Swan gave him half-a-guinea to buy a brace of pistols; but having spent the money given to him he was ordered to meet Miss Jeffries and Swan at Walthamstow on the Tuesday following, at ten o'clock at night, the object being then to carry out their intentions with respect to the murder.

When he arrived he found the garden door on the latch, and going into the pantry he hid himself behind a tub till about eleven o'clock, when Swan brought him some cold boiled beef. About twelve Miss Jeffries and Swan came to him, when the latter said: "Now it is time to knock the old miser, my master, on the head." But Matthews relented and said: "I cannot find it in my heart to do it." Miss Jeffries then immediately replied: "You may be d——d for a villain, for not performing your promise!" And Swan, who was provided with pistols, also loudly abused him, and said he had a mind to blow his brains out for the refusal. Swan then produced a book, and insisted that Matthews should swear that he would not discover what had passed; and he did so, with this reserve, "unless it was to save his own life." Soon after this Matthews heard the report of a pistol, when, getting out of the house by the back way, he crossed the ferry and proceeded to Enfield Chase. Immediately afterwards Miss Jeffries appeared at the door of the house and called out for assistance, and, some of the neighbours going in, they found Mr Jeffries dying, but they failed in discovering anything which could lead to the supposition of any person having quitted the house. Suspicions in consequence arose, and Miss Jeffries was taken into custody; but no evidence arising to incriminate her she was discharged, and immediately administered on her uncle's estate and took possession of his property.

MARY BLANDY

Renewed suspicions, however, were raised, and, Matthews having been discovered, Jeffries and Swan were apprehended. Upon this testimony a verdict of guilty was returned.

After conviction Elizabeth Jeffries made a full confession of her guilt. On the day of execution the convicts left the prison at four in the morning, Miss Jeffries being placed in a cart and Swan on a sledge. The unfortunate woman repeatedly fainted on her way to the gallows; and, having fallen into a fit, had not recovered when she was turned off. The execution took place near the sixth milestone in Epping Forest, on the 28th of March, 1752, and, the body of Miss Jeffries having been delivered to her friends for interment, the gibbet was removed to another part of the Forest, where Swan was hung in chains.

MARY BLANDY

*Executed 6th of April, 1752, for murdering her Father
at the Request of her Lover*

MR FRANCIS BLANDY was an attorney residing at Henley-on-Thames, and held the office of town clerk of that place. Possessed of ample means, his house became the scene of much gaiety; and as report gave to his daughter a fortune of no inconsiderable extent, and as, besides, her manners were sprightly and affable, and her appearance engaging, her hand was sought in marriage by many persons whose rank and wealth rendered them fitting to become her partner for life. But among all these visitants none were received with greater pleasure by Mr or Mrs Blandy, or their daughter, than those who held commissions in the army. This predilection was evidenced in the introduction of the Hon. William Henry Cranstoun, at that time engaged on the recruiting service for a foot regiment, in which he ranked as captain.

Captain Cranstoun was the son of Lord Cranstoun, a Scottish peer of ancient family, and through the instrumentality of his uncle, Lord Mark Ker, he had obtained

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his commission. In the year 1745 he had married a young lady of good family, named Murray, with whom he received an ample fortune ; and in the year 1752 he was ordered to England to endeavour to procure his complement of men for his regiment. His bad fortune led him to Henley, and there he formed an intimacy with Miss Blandy.

At this time Cranstoun was forty-six years of age, while Miss Blandy was twenty years his junior ; and it is somewhat extraordinary that a person of her accomplishments and beauty should have formed a liaison with a man so much older than herself, and who, besides, is represented as having been devoid of all personal attractions.

A short acquaintance, it appears, was sufficient to excite the flame of passion in the mind of the gallant captain, as well as of Miss Blandy ; and ere long their troth was plighted that they would be for ever one. The Captain, however, felt the importance of forestalling any information which might reach the ears of his new love of the existence of any person who possessed a better right to his affections than she, and he therefore informed her that he was engaged in a disagreeable lawsuit with a young lady in Scotland who had claimed him as her husband ; but he assured her that it was a mere affair of gallantry, of which the process of the law would in the course of a very short time relieve him. This disclosure being followed by an offer of marriage, Cranstoun was referred to Mr Blandy, and he obtained an easy acquiescence on his part in the wishes expressed by the young lady.

At this juncture, an intimation being conveyed to Lord Ker of the proceedings of his nephew, his lordship took instant steps to apprise Mr Blandy of the position of Cranstoun. Prejudice had, however, worked its end as well with the father as the daughter, and the assertion of the intended bridegroom of the falsehood of the allegations made was sufficient to dispel all the fears which the report of Lord Ker had raised. But although Captain Cranstoun had thus temporarily freed himself from the effects of the imputation cast upon him, he felt that some steps were

MARY BLANDY

necessary to get his first marriage annulled, and he at length wrote to his wife, requesting her to disown him for a husband. The substance of this letter was that, having no other way of rising to preferment but in the army, he had but little ground to expect advancement there while it was known he was encumbered with a wife and family; but could he once pass for a single man he had not the least doubt of being quickly promoted, which would procure him a sufficiency to maintain her as well as himself in a more genteel manner than now he was able to do.

Mrs Cranstoun, ill as she had been treated by her husband, and little hope as she had of more generous usage, was, after repeated letters had passed, induced to give up her claim, and at length wrote a letter disowning him. On this an attempt was made by him to annul the marriage, this letter being produced as evidence; but the artifice being discovered, the suit was dismissed, with costs. Mr Blandy soon obtained intelligence of this circumstance, and, convinced now of the falsehood of his intended son-in-law, he conveyed a knowledge of it to his daughter; but she and her mother repelled the insinuations which were thrown out, and declared, in obedience to what they had been told by the gallant Captain, that the suit was not yet terminated, for an appeal to the House of Lords would immediately be made. Soon after this Mrs Blandy died, and her husband began now to show evident dislike for Captain Cranstoun's visits; but the latter complained to the daughter of the father's ill-treatment, and insinuated that he had a method of conciliating his esteem, and that when he arrived in Scotland he would send her some powders proper for the purpose, on which, to prevent suspicion, he would write "Powders to clean the Scotch pebbles."

Cranstoun sent her the powders, according to promise; and, Mr Blandy being indisposed on the Sunday se'nnight before his death, Susan Gunnell, a maid-servant, made him some water-gruel, into which Miss Blandy conveyed some of the powder and gave it to her father; and repeating this

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draught on the following day, he was tormented with the most violent pains in his bowels.

The disorder, which had commenced with symptoms of so dangerous a character, soon increased; and the greatest alarm was felt by the medical attendants of the old gentleman that death alone would terminate his sufferings. Every effort was made by which it was hoped that his life could be saved; but at length, when all possibility of his recovery was past, his wretched daughter rushed into his presence, and in an agony of tears and lamentations confessed that she was the author of his sufferings and of his inevitable death. Urged to account for her conduct, which to her father appeared inexplicable, she denied, with the loudest asseverations, all guilty intention. She repeated the tale of her love and of the insidious arts employed by Cranstoun, but asserted that she was unaware of the deadly nature of the powders, and that her sole object in administering them was to procure her father's affection for her lover. Death soon terminated the accumulated misery of the wretched parent, and the daughter had scarcely witnessed his demise ere she became an inmate of a jail.

At the ensuing assizes at Oxford Miss Blandy was indicted for the wilful murder of her father, and was immediately found guilty upon the confession which she had made. She addressed the jury at great length, repeating the story which she had before related; but all was of no avail, and sentence of death was passed. At nine in the morning of the 6th of April, 1752, she left her apartment to be conducted to the scaffold, habited in a black bombasine dress, her arms being bound with black ribands. On her ascending the gallows she begged that she might not be hanged high, "for the sake of decency"; and on her being desired to go a little higher, expressed her fear that she should fall. The rope having been put round her neck, she pulled her handkerchief over her face, and was turned off on holding out a book of devotions which she had been reading.

JOHN M'CANNELLY AND LUKE MORGAN

*A Daring Burglary committed in the House of Mr Porter, of the
Raike Farmhouse, near Chester, by M'Cannelly, Morgan,
Stanley, Boyd and Neill, Irish Haymakers, for
which the first two were executed on the
25th of May, 1752*

MR PORTER, a wealthy farmer of Cheshire, had engaged a number of Irish labourers in the year 1752 in his harvest-fields. One evening his house was beset by a gang of them, who forcibly broke open his doors, advanced to him while at his supper-table, seized and bound him with cords, at the same time, with horrid threats, demanding his money.

They also seized his eldest daughter, pinioned her, and obliged her to show them where her father's money and plate were deposited. In the confusion the youngest daughter, a heroic little girl of thirteen years of age, made her escape, ran into the stable and got astride the bare back of a horse only haltered; but not daring to ride past the house beset by the rogues she galloped over the fields, leaping hedges and ditches, to Pulford, to inform her eldest brother of the danger that was at the village. He and a friend, named Craven, determined on attacking the villains, and for that purpose set off at full speed, the little girl accompanying them.

On entering his paternal roof the son found one of the villains on guard, whom he killed so instantaneously that it caused no alarm. Proceeding to the parlour, they found the other four in the very act of setting his father on the fire, after robbing him of fourteen guineas, in order to extort more. They had stripped down his breeches to his feet, and his eldest daughter was on her knees, supplicating for his life.

What a sight was this for a son! Like an enraged lion, and backed by his brave friend, he flew upon them. They fired two pistols and wounded both the father and the son,

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and a servant-boy whom they had also bound, but not so as to disable them, for the son wrested a hanger from one of them, cleft the villain to the ground, and cut the others.

The eldest daughter having unbound her father the old man united his utmost efforts by the side of his son and friend, and so hard did they press that the thieves jumped through a window and ran off.

The young men pursued and seized two more on Chester Bridge, who dropped a silver tankard. The fifth got on board a vessel at Liverpool, of which his brother was the cook, bound for the West Indies; which sailed, but was driven back by adverse winds.

The account of the robbery, with the escape of the remaining villain, having reached Liverpool, a King's boat searched every vessel, and at length found the robber, by the wounds he had received, and sent him in fetters to Chester Jail.

Mr Porter had a servant-man in the house at the time, a countryman of the robbers, who remained an unconcerned spectator, and, afterwards running away, he was also sent to prison, charged with being an accomplice. They were brought to trial at Chester Assizes, in March, 1752, and condemned.

Boyd, on account of his youth, and his having endeavoured to prevail upon the others not to murder Mr Porter, had his sentence of death remitted for transportation. The hired servant of Mr Porter was not prosecuted.

On the Thursday previous to the day fixed for execution Stanley slipped off his irons and, changing his dress, escaped out of jail, and got clear off. On the 25th of May, 1752, M'Cannelly and Morgan were brought out of prison in order to be hanged. Their behaviour was as decent as could be expected from such low-bred men. They both declared that Stanley, who escaped, was the sole contriver of the robbery.

They died in the Catholic faith, and were attended by a priest.

THOMAS WILFORD

*A Cripple, who murdered his Wife in a Fit of Jealousy,
and was executed at Tyburn on the 22nd of
June, 1752*

THE jealous subject of our narrative was born of very poor parents, at Fulham, in the county of Middlesex; and, coming into the world with only one arm, he was received into the workhouse, where he was employed in going errands for the paupers and occasionally for the inhabitants of the town, and he was distinguished by his inoffensive behaviour.

A girl of ill-fame, named Sarah Williams, being passed from the parish of St Giles-in-the-Fields to the same workhouse, had art enough to persuade Wilford to marry her, though he was then only seventeen years of age; and their inclinations being made known to the churchwardens they gave the intended bride forty shillings to enable her to begin the world.

The young couple now went to the Fleet and were married, after which they took lodgings in St Giles's; and it was only on the Sunday succeeding the marriage that the murder was perpetrated. On that day the wife, having been out with an old acquaintance, stayed till midnight, and on her return Wilford, who was jealous of her conduct, asked her where she had been. She said, "To the Park," and would give him no other answer; a circumstance that inflamed him to such a degree that a violent quarrel ensued, the consequence of which was fatal to the wife; for Wilford's passions were so irritated that he seized a knife and, she advancing towards him, he threw her down and, kneeling on her, cut her throat so that her head was almost severed from her body.

He had no sooner committed the horrid deed than he threw down the knife, opened the chamber door, and was going downstairs, when a woman, who lodged in an adjacent room, asked who was there; to which Wilford replied:

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“ It is me. I have murdered my poor wife, whom I loved as dearly as my own life.”

On this the woman went down to the landlord of the house, and was immediately followed by Wilford, who said he had killed the woman that he loved beyond all the world, and was willing to die for the crime he had committed ; and he did not make the slightest effort to escape.

On this the landlord called the watch, who, taking Wilford into custody, confined him for that night, and on the following day he was committed to Newgate by Justice Fielding.

Being arraigned on the first day of the following sessions at the Old Bailey he pleaded guilty ; but, the Court refusing to record his plea, he was put by till the last day, when he again pleaded guilty, but was prevailed on to put himself on his trial.

Accordingly the trial came on, and the prisoner was found guilty. He was the first to suffer death in consequence of an Act passed in the year 1751 for the more effectual prevention of murder, which decreed that the convict should be executed on the second day after conviction : for which reason it was customary to try persons charged with murder on a Friday, by which indulgence, in case of conviction, the execution of the sentence was necessarily postponed till Monday ; and by the same Act it was ordained that the convicted murderer should be either hanged in chains or anatomised.

The jury having found Wilford guilty, sentence against him was pronounced in the following terms :—“ Thomas Wilford, you stand convicted of the horrid and unnatural crime of murdering Sarah, your wife. This Court doth adjudge that you be taken back to the place from whence you came, and there to be fed on bread and water till Wednesday next, when you are to be taken to the common place of execution, and there hanged by the neck until you are dead ; after which your body is to be publicly dissected and anatomised, agreeable to an Act of Parliament in that case made and provided ; and may God Almighty have mercy on your soul ! ”

MOSES MORAVIA AND JOHN MANOURY

Both before and after conviction Wilford behaved as a real penitent, and at the place of execution he exhibited the most genuine signs of contrition for the crime of which he had been guilty.

MOSES MORAVIA AND JOHN MANOURY

*Convicted at the Old Bailey, 27th of June, 1752,
for sinking a Ship and swindling Insurers*

SHIP-INSURERS were about this time greatly defrauded by conspiracies of villains to sink vessels, in order to swindle the underwriters, and the utmost difficulty was always experienced in bringing the crimes home to them.

It was usual for those who practised the imposition upon ship-insurers to purchase goods, pay for them, get them on board, and in the night-time take them clandestinely out of the ship and dispose of them for what they would bring.

Thus when they had sunk the ship they could produce receipts for the goods, and the shipping papers for the same; upon which the insurers were compelled to pay the amount.

This was precisely the crime proved upon these Jews, who, conspiring with one Samuel Wilson, who died before his trial came on, and Captain Misson, commander of the ship *Elizabeth and Martha*, sunk that fine ship at sea, in order to defraud the underwriters. Misson absconded, and a reward of fifty pounds was offered for apprehending him, but he was never brought to justice.

Moravia and Manoury were arraigned for this offence at the bar of the Old Bailey, on the 27th of June, 1752, and, after a long trial, found guilty. Solomon Carolina, another Jew, was tried with them, as an accomplice; but, the proof not fully reaching him, he was acquitted.

They were sentenced to a year's imprisonment in Newgate, and in that time to stand in the pillory, once on Tower Hill and once at the Royal Exchange; to pay a fine of twenty

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pounds each, and to find securities for their good behaviour for five years, themselves in two hundred pounds each, and such other securities as the Court might require.

ANN WHALE AND SARAH PLEDGE

Ann Whale, strangled and then burned, for the Murder of her Husband ; and Sarah Pledge, hanged for being her Accomplice, 14th of August, 1752, at Horsham, in Sussex

ANN WHALE was born of respectable parents, at Horsham, in Sussex; but her father dying in her infancy, she was left to the care of her mother. Early in life she gave evidence of an uncontrollable disposition, and, having a dispute with her mother, she wandered into the country and associated with people of bad character; but her mother, in order to save her from ruin, at length prevailed on her to return home.

Soon after this she was addressed by a sober young man, named James Whale; and as a relation had left her a legacy of eighty pounds, payable when she was of age, and the mother readily consenting to their alliance, the marriage took place. They had not been long wedded when they went to reside at a place called Steepwood; but soon returning to Horsham they took up their residence in the house of Sarah Pledge, who was distantly related to Mrs Whale.

A short time after their abode there, a misunderstanding happening between the women, Mr Whale forbade Mrs Pledge to come into his apartment—a circumstance that only tended to foment the quarrel. Soon afterwards, however, the women were privately reconciled; and as the man was remarkably sober, and they were of the opposite character, it is the less to be wondered at that they sought the means of his destruction.

Mrs Whale having lain in, and being tolerably recovered, Mrs Pledge took the advantage of her husband's absence

ANN WHALE AND SARAH PLEDGE

to come into her room, when she said : " Nan, let us get rid of this devil ! " (meaning Mr Whale). The wife said : " How can we do it ? " To which the other replied : " Let us give him a dose of poison."

The abandoned woman too readily consented to this horrid proposal ; and the only difficulty which appeared to arise was, how the poison should be procured.

They first attempted their purpose by roasting spiders and putting them into his beer, but finding this did not produce the effect, Mrs Pledge undertook to purchase something more efficacious, and for that purpose went to several market-towns ; but as she went into each apothecary's shop she saw, or fancied she saw, some person who knew her, or that her conscience interposed. At length she went to an apothecary at Horsham to whom she was a stranger, but was still afraid, though she made the purchase.

Hastening to her more wicked friend, she gave her the bane, who with equal dispatch administered it ; for at the moment her husband was fondling their child, on whom he doted, she mixed it in some hasty pudding prepared for his supper. Unsuspicious, the affectionate but unfortunate man ate, was soon seized with the racking torments occasioned by that corrosive mineral, and the next day expired ; but, the neighbours suspecting that his death was occasioned by some sinister arts, a surgeon examined the body, and the coroner's jury being summoned brought in a verdict of " Wilful Murder."

Thereupon Mrs Whale and Mrs Pledge were taken into custody, and carried before a magistrate. The latter wished to become evidence ; but being separately examined, and both confessing the fact, they were committed to Horsham Jail.

On their trials the confessions which they had signed were read and, some corroborative evidence arising, they were convicted, and received sentence of death.

For some time after conviction Mrs Pledge behaved in the most hardened manner, making use of profane expressions, and declaring that she would fight with the hangman

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at the place of execution. On the contrary, Mrs Whale acknowledged the justice of the sentence which had condemned her, and gave evident signs of being a real penitent.

On the evening preceding the execution the clergyman who attended them brought Mrs Pledge into a better state of mind, and then administered the Sacrament to both the convicts.

An immense crowd attended at the place of execution where Pledge was hanged; and Whale, being tied to a stake, was first strangled and then burned to ashes, in the twenty-first year of her age.

CHRISTOPHER JOHNSON AND JOHN STOCKDALE

*Executed at Tyburn, 3rd of July, 1753, and their Bodies
hanged in Chains, for Murder*

CHRISTOPHER JOHNSON was born in Newgate, both his parents being convicted of fraud. Having imbibed false ideas of gentility, he procured some elegant clothes and frequented the gaming-houses, where he soon made the most dangerous connections and arrived at the head of his profession.

From the practice of gaming he took to that of forgery, at which he was remarkably expert in imitating the hands of other people to notes payable to himself; by which he repeatedly acquired money, but still escaped detection.

His daring was such that he sometimes arrested persons on whom he had committed forgeries and compelled the payment of the money, by having people ready to swear that the handwriting was that of the party whose name was subscribed to the draft.

The following is one specimen of his devices. He forged a note on a lady of considerable fortune, and signed her name to it so like her writing that she almost discredited

JOHNSON AND STOCKDALE

her own sight when she read it. Johnson arrested her. But as she knew she had given no such note, she bailed the action and prepared to stand trial; but the guilty man declined all further proceedings.

After this Johnson took to picking pockets and other low practices of defraud; but a miserable poverty still attended him, for what he got dishonestly was soon spent in dissipation. At length he met John Stockdale, at Sadler's Wells, and agreed to see him the next evening at a house in Holborn.

Stockdale was born at Leicester, where his father was a reputable proctor, who gave him an excellent education, but was too fond of him to keep that strict guard over his conduct which might have been essential to his future welfare. He very soon showed a disposition to idleness, which was not properly checked by his parents, who would not permit his schoolmaster to chastise him for his faults. When the father saw his error he determined, in pursuance of the advice of some friends, to send him to a proctor in Doctors' Commons, where he hoped to hear of a speedy reformation in his manners. Stockdale, however, was of too idle a disposition to brook confinement. His extravagance exceeded the bounds of his father's allowance, and he borrowed of his acquaintances to supply his immediate wants. In this way he went on frequenting places of public diversion, till those who had lent him money teased him for a return of it; and he was at a loss for further resources when he met Johnson at Sadler's Wells.

On the following day these ill-fated youths met at the appointed place and made a contract for their mutual destruction. At this time Johnson was under twenty and Stockdale not eighteen years of age. Stockdale agreed to accompany Johnson, and the next day they hired horses and rode towards Romford, near which the party lived whom they intended to rob; and having wasted the time till night, they tied their horses to a hedge and, being armed with pistols, knocked at the door, which was opened by the old gentleman. Johnson presented a pistol to his

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breast, and then they bound him and his two servants, and told the master that he must expect immediate death if he did not discover where his money was concealed.

Terrified by this threat, he told them to take a key from his pocket which would open a bureau, where they would find a bag containing all the cash then in his possession. The robbers having seized the property, Johnson put the bag into his pocket and then remounted and rode to London, where they found the booty to consist of one hundred and fifty pounds; but this they soon dissipated in acts of extravagance, and then proceeded to commit a number of robberies on the roads of Essex and Kent.

They took horses in Holborn, and, having ridden to Edmonton, turned up a lane, where they met a postman, who was carrying letters round the neighbourhood. The man good-naturedly opened the gate for them to pass, when Johnson demanded his money and watch, which he held out to them, and at that instant was shot dead by Stockdale.

The murder was no sooner committed than they hastened to London; and, though the country was alarmed by what had happened, they rode on the following day to Hounslow, where they dined. After dinner they called for their horses, but Stockdale was so intoxicated that he at first fell from the horse, but was replaced.

The magistrates having by this time sent out a number of constables, the murderers were taken into custody and carried before a magistrate, when Stockdale acknowledged his guilt; but by this time Johnson was so drunk that he was insensible of his confinement to Newgate.

When brought up to receive sentence of death, Johnson was so unwell that he was indulged with a chair. Stockdale kept up his spirits with decent fortitude until his eyes met those of a gentleman near him with whom he had lived, when he burst into tears, and continued in great agitation the remainder of the awful time, frequently beating his head and breast in a violent manner.

Johnson was so extremely debilitated that he could pay no attention at the place of execution to the preparation of his

WILLIAM SMITH

soul for another life; but Stockdale prayed fervently, and made a pathetic address to the populace at the fatal tree.

After hanging the usual time their bodies were taken to Surgeons' Hall for dissection; and preparations for that purpose were being made when an order came from the office of the Secretary of State that they should be hung in chains on Winchmore Hill, where they were accordingly placed.

WILLIAM SMITH

*Executed at York, 14th of August, 1753, for poisoning
Thomas Harper, his Stepfather, and his two
Children, William and Anne Harper*

WILLIAM SMITH was a farmer in good circumstances at Great Broughton, in the county of York. His mother had married a second husband, one Thomas Harper, of Ingleby Manor, who had already two children. Smith therefore wished to rid himself of those whom he considered obtruders between him and his prospects from his late father's estate.

After forming several diabolical plans for cutting them off, and his resolution as often failing him, being one day in an apothecary's shop purchasing some physic for his horses, the evil spirit whispered to him that the means were at hand, and he immediately asked for a little arsenic to kill the rats in his barn. The apothecary, not suspecting a man of Smith's respectability meant the deadly powder for any other use, sold him twopennyworth.

The day chosen by this now-determined sinner to administer the poison was the Good Friday of the year 1753, when, observing a large cake being prepared, of which some neighbours had been invited to partake, he unperceived, as he imagined, mixed it with the flour, and thus it was served up to the table.

It providentially happened that the neighbours did not come to dinner, and none ate of the cake except Thomas Harper and two of his children, William and Anne.

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Having made preparations for flight, the murderer, the moment he found his wickedness had taken its desired effect, set off for Liverpool, from which a suspicion arose that he was the perpetrator of the horrid deed.

The unfortunate people languished in excruciating torments until the next day, when they expired.

No sooner had Smith reached Liverpool than his conscience began to rebuke him, and having no kind of employment his existence became a burden to him. Nor could he find the least respite until he returned to the very spot where he committed the murder, where he was immediately apprehended, and confessed his crime.

At the autumn assizes for the county of York, before Mr Serjeant Eyre, Smith was, on his own confession, the evidence of the apothecary, and a maid-servant, who saw him busy with the flour, with other corroborating circumstantial evidence, found guilty, and received sentence of death.

JOHN HAMBLETON

A Soldier of the Guards, executed at Tyburn, 10th of December, 1753, for the Murder of Mr Crouch

MR CROUCH, the murdered man, was head cook to the Earl of Harrington.

On the 17th of August, 1753, he went upon the business of his employer to Chelsea, and in returning through King's Road, about nine o'clock in the evening, he was met by Hambleton and his associate, named Lattie, who, with horrid imprecations, demanded his money.

Mr Crouch was a resolute man and refused to be robbed ; thereupon they fired two pistols at him, without effect. Being himself unarmed, he had recourse to a pocket-knife, which he opened and told them to keep off ; but they closed on him, in doing which he wounded Lattie in three places. The villains overpowering him, they threw him to the ground and rifled his pockets of his money and his watch ; they then, not content with their booty, with which they

CAPTAIN JOHN LANCEY

might have escaped, wrested the knife from his hand, ripped open his belly, then stamped upon his mangled body, beat him on the head with the butt-ends of their pistols, and left him weltering in his blood.

Early next morning some labourers going to their work discovered him still alive and able to describe the robbers, with his place of residence, which was a small house in Green Street, Grosvenor Square, near his noble employer's mansion. Thither he was carried, where he languished in excruciating torments three days, and then died, leaving a widow and three children.

The murderers, from his description, were soon apprehended. Lattie had the wounds about him given by the deceased, who was able to identify them the day before his death.

Hambleton was brought to his trial at the Old Bailey, and sentenced to die; but Lattie died of the wounds given him by the murdered man before the time of his being arraigned, thus robbing the gallows of its just due.

The surviving murderer was executed at Tyburn, professing himself a Roman Catholic, and his body was given to the surgeons for dissection.

CAPTAIN JOHN LANCEY

*Executed at Execution Dock, 7th of June, 1754, for
burning a Ship at the Instigation of a Member
of Parliament*

THIS unfortunate man fell a dupe to an artful and wicked villain, his employer, who at the time was a disgraceful Member of the House of Commons, and who, to avoid the punishment due to his crimes, fled, and left the unfortunate subject whose case is before us a victim to his baseness.

Captain John Lancey was a native of Biddeford, in Devonshire, respectably born and well educated. As he gave early proofs of an inclination for a seafaring life he was

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taught navigation, was attentive to his studies, and gave proofs of a goodness of disposition that promised a better fate than afterwards attended him.

Lancey was sent to sea as mate of a ship, of which Mr Benson, a rich merchant at Biddeford, was the proprietor. Lancey, having married a relation of Benson's, was soon advanced to the command of the vessel. This Benson was Member of Parliament for Barnstaple, in Devonshire, and what kind of character he deserved will appear in the sequel.

After Lancey had returned from a long voyage he was for a considerable time confined to his bed by a violent illness, the expense of which tended considerably to impoverish him. When he had partly recovered, Benson told him that he proposed to refit the ship in which he had formerly sailed; that Lancey should have the command of her; that he (Benson) would insure her for more than double her value, and then Lancey should destroy the vessel.

This proposal appeared shocking to Lancey, who thought it but a trial of his honesty, and declared his sentiments, saying that he would never take any part in a transaction so totally opposite to the whole tenor of his conduct.

For the present nothing more was said; but soon afterwards Benson invited Lancey and several other gentlemen to dine with him. The entertainment was liberal; and, Captain Lancey being asked to stay after the rest of the company were gone, Mr Benson took him to a summer-house in the garden, where he again proposed destroying the ship, and urged it in a manner that proved he was in earnest.

Captain Lancey hesitated a short time on this proposal and then declined to have any concern in so iniquitous a scheme, declaring that he would seek other employment rather than take any part in such a transaction. But Benson, resolving if possible not to lose his agent, prevailed on him to drink freely, and then urged every argument he could think of to prevail on him to undertake the business, promising to shelter him from punishment in case of detection. Lancey still hesitated. But when Benson mentioned the poverty to which his family was reduced by his late illness,

CAPTAIN JOHN LANCEY

and offered such flattering prospects of protection, the unhappy man at length yielded, to his own destruction.

A ship was now fitted out, bound for Maryland: and goods to a large amount were shipped on board, but relanded before the vessel sailed, and a lading of brickbats taken in by way of ballast. They had not been long at sea when a hole was bored in the side of the ship and a cask of combustible ingredients was set on fire, with a view to destroying her. The fire no sooner appeared than the Captain called to some convicted transports, then in the hold, to inquire if they had fired the vessel; which appears to have been only a feint to conceal the real design.

The boat being hoisted out, all the crew got safe on shore; and then Lancey repaired immediately to Benson to inform him of what had passed. Benson instantly dispatched him to a proctor, before whom he swore that the ship had accidentally taken fire, and that it was impossible to prevent the consequences which followed.

Lancey now repaired to his own house, and continued with as much apparent unconcern as if such a piece of villainy had not been perpetrated; but he was soon afterwards taken into custody by a constable, who informed him that oath had been made of the transaction before the Mayor of Exeter by one of the seamen. Lancey, however, did not express much concern, secure in his idea of protection from the supposed influence of Benson.

On the following day Lancey and one of the ship's crew were committed to the jail of Exeter, where they remained three months; and being then removed to London were examined by Sir Thomas Salisbury, the judge of the Admiralty Court, and committed to the prison of the Marshalsea. Application was afterwards made to the Court of Admiralty to admit them to bail; and there appeared to be no objection to granting the favour, but Benson, on whom they had depended for bail, had absconded, to escape the justice due to his atrocious crime.

Being committed to Newgate, they were brought to trial at the next Sessions of Admiralty held at the Old Bailey,

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when Lancey was capitally convicted, and received sentence of death, but the other was acquitted. He was hanged at Execution Dock, on the 7th of June, 1754, in his twenty-seventh year.

ROBERT ALSOP, A MIDSHIPMAN, AND SIX SEAMEN

Convicted in 1755 for committing a Riot in the City of London, and impressing a Citizen thereof, but treated leniently in order that they might fight against France

A PRESS-GANG in the year 1755, in a riotous manner, forced themselves into the house of Mr William Godfrey, a citizen of good repute and a cooper, of the City of London. They knocked him down and dragged him through the streets with only one slipper on, and thus forcibly put him on board a King's ship in the River Thames. There he was confined in the hold among a number of other subjects, where there was a suffocating stench, the effects of which long endangered his life. Twelve hours was he thus confined, to the scandal, as the printed accounts of this lawless baseness of the time said, of all government, and in derogation of the rights and privileges of the City of London. At length, the Lord Mayor exercising his authority, Mr Godfrey was released, and his friends set about the laudable task of bringing those spoilers to condign punishment.

Robert Alsop, William Sturges, John Dodsey, Frederick Offer, James Williamson, Charles Powell and Benjamin Tidsdale, a part of this press-gang, were indicted, and committed to prison.

Being brought to trial at the Guildhall of the City of London, Sturges and Dodsey, having surrendered themselves, and pleading for mercy, were acquitted; but the others were found guilty.

While the Court was deliberating on the punishment to be inflicted on them some officers of Government interceded, and prayed that their country might not long be deprived of their services against the French, then at war

BERRY, M'DANIEL, EGAN, SALMON, BLEE

with us ; and in consequence thereof, and on their knees suing for mercy, backed by Mr Godfrey's generous forgiveness, they were sentenced to only ten days' imprisonment.

JOHN BERRY, STEPHEN M'DANIEL, JAMES EGAN, JAMES SALMON AND — BLEE

*A new Species of Murderers, who conspired against the
Lives of many Innocent Men*

M'DANIEL had kept a public-house in Holborn ; Egan was a shoemaker, in Drury Lane ; and Salmon was a leather-breeches maker, in Drury Lane.

These villains conspired together in accusing innocent people of crimes which took away life, for the reward so offered. Various were the diabolical plans they laid for this purpose.

At one time they enticed two victims to join them in committing a highway robbery upon one of their own gang, a third was to purchase the stolen goods, and the other was to apprehend the intended victims, permitting his accomplice who had been concerned in the robbery to escape, and then to join the party robbed and the receiver in the prosecution. But if, through the information of the other two, the thief-taker, who proposed and assisted in the robbery, was apprehended, then, in order to preserve him, the prosecution was not supported.

These villains exhibited an accusation of robbery against two young men named Newman and March. Upon their trial they related the manner in which they had been seduced ; but the evidence of the thief-takers was so strong that they were convicted, and suffered death.

A poor man named Tyler was met by one of the gang, who said he would make him a present of a horse for which he had no further occasion. The unfortunate man joyfully received the horse from his apparently generous benefactor, by whom he was advised to take the beast to an inn in Smith-field, there to be taken care of till he should determine in

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what manner to dispose of him. Before he could reach Smithfield he was seized by Egan, who took him before the sitting alderman ; and it being sworn that he had stolen the horse, he was committed to Newgate, and soon afterwards hanged. In the year 1753 they charged an innocent man named Woodland with felony ; and he was committed, and sentenced to suffer death ; but he was so fortunate as to receive a pardon, on condition of transportation. The villains, however, claimed, and actually received, the reward, in consequence of their having prosecuted him to conviction.

Joshua Kidden was the next who fell a sacrifice to their abominable artifices. It would be tedious to recount the particulars relating to the many people who suffered death through the false evidence of these atrocious villains, and especially as the several cases bear much similarity to each other. We shall now proceed to a narrative of the fact of which they were convicted.

The money obtained by the conviction of Kidden being nearly expended, they employed themselves in concerting new schemes of villainy for recruiting their finances. It was determined to employ a man named Blee, a fellow of abandoned principles, who had for some time acted as an assistant to Berry in attending in the fields about Islington till he could decoy two idle boys to consent to join him in a robbery.

They all held a meeting in an arbour belonging to a public-house, the sign of Sir John Oldcastle, in the neighbourhood of Islington, where they appointed the time for committing the robbery, and that it should be near Deptford, on account of the inhabitants of Greenwich having advertised twenty pounds for the apprehending any highwayman or footpad, in addition to the reward allowed by Parliament. Their wicked plan being settled, they separated, lest they should be suspected of holding an improper correspondence, for they were particularly careful not to be seen together where there was a probability of their persons being known.

The time for holding the assizes having arrived, Mr Cox,

BERRY, M'DANIEL, EGAN, SALMON, BLEE

having a warrant for apprehending Berry, Salmon, M'Daniel and Egan, went to Maidstone, having Blee in custody. Mr Cox waited till the conclusion of the trial, but had no sooner heard the foreman of the jury pronounce the prisoners guilty than he caused the four iniquitous accomplices to be taken into custody. They obstinately persisted in declaring themselves innocent; and even when confronted with Blee denied having the least knowledge of him. But on the following day they severally requested to be admitted evidences for the Crown. In this none of them was indulged, the evidence of Blee being deemed sufficient for their conviction.

They were removed to London, in order for trial, as being accessories before the fact. The jury were not able to determine whether the prisoners came within the description of the statutes 4th and 5th of Philip and Mary, or 3rd and 4th of William and Mary, and therefore referred the case to the decision of the twelve judges.

The special verdict being brought to a hearing before the judges in the hall of Serjeants' Inn, counsel was heard on both sides, and it was unanimously determined that offences charged against the prisoners did not come within the meaning of the statutes above mentioned; but orders were given for indicting them for a conspiracy.

An indictment being found against them, they were again put to the bar at the Old Bailey, and the evidence exhibited against them on their former trial being recapitulated, the jury pronounced them guilty, and they were sentenced to be punished in the following manner: Berry and M'Daniel to stand in the pillory, once at the end of Hatton Garden, in Holborn, and once at the end of King Street, in Cheapside; Salmon and Egan to stand once in the middle of West Smithfield, and the second time at the end of Fetter Lane, in Fleet Street; and all to be imprisoned in Newgate for the space of seven years; and upon the expiration of that time not to be discharged without finding sureties to be bound in the penalties of a thousand pounds each for their good behaviour for the seven following years.

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On the 5th of March, 1756, M'Daniel and Berry were set in the pillory at the end of Hatton Garden, and were so severely treated by the populace that their lives were supposed to be in danger. Egan and Salmon were taken to Smithfield on Monday, the 8th of the same month, amidst a surprising concourse of people, who no sooner saw the offenders exposed in the pillory than they pelted them with stones, brickbats, potatoes, dead dogs and cats, and other things. The constables now interposed; but, being soon overpowered, the offenders were left wholly to the mercy of an enraged mob. The blows they received occasioned their heads to swell to an enormous size; and by people hanging to the skirts of their clothes they were nearly strangled. They had been in the pillory about half-an-hour when a stone struck Egan on the head, and he immediately expired.

The sheriffs fearing that should the survivors be again exposed to the vengeance of an enraged people they would share the fate of their companion in iniquity, the remainder of the sentence of pillory was on that account remitted; but the length of their sentence of imprisonment, added to the great amount of the sureties for their good behaviour after the expiration thereof, might have been considered tantamount to imprisonment for life—a fate well suited to such mischievous, hard-hearted and unrelenting villains. They, however, soon died in Newgate.

BLI GONZALEZ *ALIAS* JOHN SYMMONDS
ALIAS SPANISH JACK

*After a varied Criminal Career he was finally executed
at Maidstone, 18th of April, 1756, for stealing
a Silver Tankard*

GONZALEZ was descended of reputable parents residing at Alicante, in Spain, who were exceedingly careful of his education, intending him for Holy Orders; but all their hopes in him were disappointed, for he absconded

BLI GONZALEZ

from school and entered on board a man-of-war. Having remained some years in this station, he engaged on board a ship-of-war belonging to England, and sailed up the Levant.

After staying some time at Alexandria, Smyrna and other places, the ship put in to Gibraltar, and was ordered to be laid up ; in consequence of which he entered on board a Dutch vessel. He served in several English privateers during the war, and when peace was restored joined one of the gangs of smugglers that infested the coasts of Kent and Sussex.

His connections among the English induced him to change his name to John Symmonds, by which appellation we shall hereafter distinguish him. Having acquired a sum of money, he repaired to London and formed an acquaintance with a number of people, of both sexes, of the most wicked and abandoned character. Having spent his money in scenes of riot and intoxication, he obtained credit for divers small sums from different people, whom he amused by assuring them that he was entitled to prize-money, on the receipt of which he would pay them.

His creditors becoming importunate for their money, he formed the resolution of going again to sea ; but, not being able to enter into such advantageous engagements as he expected, he became acquainted with an infamous gang of robbers, and joined in their iniquitous practices. They committed a variety of robberies in the fields near Stepney. As Symmonds was passing along Ragfair he was seized by a person whom he, in conjunction with other villains, had robbed the preceding evening. This event occasioned him to reflect on his dangerous situation ; and, judging that if he continued his illegal courses he could not long escape detection, he determined to give information against his accomplices.

He communicated his design to M'Daniel, and accompanied him and other thief-takers one evening to a house where they were drinking, when Mandevile, Holmes and Newton were taken into custody, but two others of the

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gang escaped through a window. Mandevile, Holmes and Newton were convicted on the evidence of Symmonds, and executed, in October, 1751, at Tyburn.

For the apprehension of the three malefactors above mentioned the thief-takers received a reward of four hundred and twenty pounds, of which they allowed the evidence only ten pounds; and by various contrivances they kept him in custody till he had expended all but thirty shillings of that sum. They imagined that they might obtain further emolument through his means, and therefore endeavoured to keep him in a state of poverty, that he might be the more readily induced to return to his former practices, expecting that he would betray his new accomplices into the fate suffered by Mandevile, Holmes and Newton.

Symmonds had for some time lived on terms of great intimacy with Anthony and Emanuel de Rosa, the murderers of Mr Fargues. Having engaged to go on the highway with Dissent and Branch (executed for the murder of Mr Brown), they called at his lodgings; but the girl with whom he cohabited dissuaded him from accompanying them. Upon seeing the watch and other property stolen from Mr Brown, he regretted his yielding to the persuasions of the girl, and upbraided her as the cause of his losing a share of so valuable a booty.

The many robberies he had committed in London and its adjacencies having rendered him so notorious that he thought himself in great danger of being apprehended, he determined to go into the country. Having travelled to Rochester, he formed an acquaintance with a fellow named Smith, who was publicly known to live by felonious practices.

Symmonds and Smith went to a public-house in Rochester, and while they were drinking some punch found an opportunity of concealing a silver tankard, which they carried off unperceived. On the following day they were apprehended, and committed to Maidstone Jail—Symmonds to be tried for stealing the tankard, and Smith to appear as evidence for the Crown.

While Symmonds was under sentence of death he

LIEUTENANT JOHN LANDER

acknowledged that till he was convinced the term of his life was nearly expired he had not reflected on the most important consequences that would result from his iniquitous proceedings, and that if he had escaped conviction he should have returned to his usual practices. He appeared to repent of his former wickedness with unfeigned sincerity, and expressed hopes of forgiveness through the merits of his Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

From the prison to the place of execution he was seriously employed in prayer, and when under the gallows he warned the people to guard against following such courses as had produced his destruction. After some time spent in devout prayer with a reverend divine, the executioner put in force the sentence of the law.

LIEUTENANT JOHN LANDER

*Executed on Pennenden Heath, in Kent, 16th of August,
1756, for Murder*

JOHAN LANDER was a lieutenant in the garrison of Chatham, and, having just received a month's pay, agreed with another officer, wild and unthinking as himself, to set off to London. For this purpose they hired a post-chaise, and ordered the post-boy to drive at full speed, or they would run him through the body. The first stage the boy, thus intimidated, whipped the poor horses until he broke their wind, which proved infinite sport to the inhuman fellows whom they dragged after them.

At Dartford they changed horses, and no sooner were they clear of the town than they repeated the word of command to the fresh boy, who accordingly urged the poor horses to their speed. At the foot of Shooter's Hill he slackened his pace, when they shouted to him to drive the same pace. On his answering the horses could not gallop up the hill, they jumped out of the chaise, and one of the degraded officers knocked the poor boy down, when Lander, drawing his sword, ran him through the

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body with such force that it actually pinioned him to the ground.

This ungovernable and base transaction of course impeded their journey. Instead of revelling in London they were sent to Rochester Jail, and brought to trial, when Lander was found guilty of wilful murder. He was executed on the 16th of August, 1756.

WILLIAM CANNICOTT

*Executed at Tyburn, 20th of September, 1756, for the
Murder of his Wife*

WILLIAM CANNICOTT was about forty years of age, and had been a livery-servant from a youth, though his parents, who were substantial people, would fain have had him learn a trade.

When he was about twenty years old he married Dorothy Tamlyn, a woman nearly forty years of age, with whom he had lived as fellow-servant; and soon after he set her up in a little haberdasher's shop in Boswell Court. This shop she kept nearly ten years, when Cannicott, being then servant to the late Admiral Matthews, took a house for her in East Street and furnished it to be let out in lodgings.

They lived peaceably, if not happily, together until, without his knowledge, she sold two suits of his best clothes, though she had no reasonable pretence or provocation, for he constantly gave her all his money, and she received, without any account, the profits that arose from the house. Cannicott was naturally passionate, and coming in haste one day to put on a suit of these clothes, upon a particular occasion, he was so exasperated to find they had been sold by his wife that he swore he would never come home to her any more. He took a lodging in a distant part of the town instead of going home to his wife, though he still continued to give her his money.

In this new neighbourhood he was of course considered as a single man; and indeed he was soon after hired to

WILLIAM CANNICOTT

a gentleman in Cavendish Square who declared that he would not hire a married man. Among Cannicott's fellow-servants there was a young woman who waited upon his master's daughter, to whom he found a secret pleasure in recommending himself by many little acts of kindness, with which he saw she was pleased. He loved her not only for her person but for her mind, which was continually being improved by the free conversation of her amiable lady. As love is always vigilant and suspicious, he discovered that his master had a design upon her virtue, and that, at the same time, she was also addressed by a young man who would have married her, and whom he thought she would consent to marry, if he did not profit by the influence he had over her by soliciting her for himself. In this situation he determined to gain her if it was possible, let the consequence be what it would. From this time his courtship commenced, and the girl, sincerely believing he had no other connection, consented to have him. When this was agreed he resolved to leave his place, because the girl would not consent to conceal her marriage from her lady, nor would her lady part with her upon that account, though his master would, notwithstanding, think it a sufficient reason to part with him. In pursuance of this scheme he hired himself to the Earl of Darnley, and on the 3rd of June, 1754, he married his new wife at Marylebone Chapel.

He went into Lord Darnley's place the same day, and his wife continued in hers a twelvemonth after they were married, and might have continued there longer if her master had not pursued his design with more importunity than before, notwithstanding the declaration of her marriage, which, upon that account, as well as others, she had determined to make as soon as it should have taken place. As these solicitations made her very uneasy, she complained of them to her husband, and he advised her to give warning. She immediately followed his counsel, but stayed five months longer to oblige her lady, who was very desirous she should go with her to Bath. When they came back, and her master found she was determined to go, and that another maid had

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been engaged in her stead, he was so enraged at his disappointment that he would scarcely suffer her to stay long enough in the house to put her clothes together. When she had come away Cannicott hired a lodging for her as near him as he could, that he might spend every leisure minute in her company ; and he perceived, with unspeakable pleasure, an excessive fondness in her which increased his own.

One Hobson, a coachman in Lord Darnley's family, knew Cannicott when he lived in another place, and knew also his first wife. It happened that the wife of this Hobson had become acquainted with some person in the house where Cannicott had taken a lodging for his second wife, and thus discovered the secret. His second wife, however, she did not know where to find, for she had removed into the country when Cannicott went out of town with his lord, and had not yet returned ; but word was immediately sent to his wife, and she took every opportunity to haunt and reproach her husband with his new connection. This made him extremely wretched, not only because it was irksome in itself, but because it kept him in continual dread and solicitude lest they should find out his favourite and interrupt her peace as they had interrupted his. As his fears increased, so did his caution : he took another lodging for his young wife, whom he called Nanny, at a considerable distance, and required her never to call, on any pretence, where she had lodged before. With this request she cheerfully complied, without knowing or inquiring why it was made ; but her old landlady, once meeting her by chance, dogged her home, and immediately acquainted Hobson and his wife where she lodged, who with great expedition sent Mrs Cannicott to acquaint her with her situation. Here was an end at once to all the stolen felicity. Nanny, at the next interview, reproached him ; but she reproached him with such tenderness as showed less anger than love. She was overwhelmed with grief, and as often as she could find words she entreated that he would never attempt to see her more, but leave her to struggle alone with her misfortunes, and endeavour to get into another place. He

WILLIAM CANNICOTT

could not consent to leave her, but promised to procure her a place. This indeed he attempted, but without success.

She had twice removed her lodging, but was still followed by Mrs Cannicott, who acquainted the neighbourhood with her story. Nanny, therefore, would not suffer Cannicott to visit her in her lodgings, where it was known she could not be his lawful wife; and though he persuaded her sometimes to meet him early in the morning, yet, as it was chiefly in the street, that afforded him no pleasure.

Hobson and his wife in the meantime fomented the difference between Cannicott and his first wife, telling her that he had received his wages, and urging her to solicit him for more money. This she did, with threats of prosecution if he refused, saying that she could and would hang him for having two wives.

As he believed this to be in her power, he restrained his aversion, for fear she should execute it, and therefore appointed to meet her on Thursday evening at the Red Lion, in Berkeley Square, to take a little walk. Being obliged to put up at a public-house near Tottenham Court, by a sudden storm of thunder and rain, she asked him for money, which he refused to give her, when she had recourse first to expostulation, then reproach, and then threatening, which threw him into a dreadful rage, in the midst of which he broke away from her and she followed him. As they were going downstairs he saw a cord hanging over the banisters, upon which he conceived a design to use it as an instrument to murder her, and therefore snatched it up and put it into his pocket. When they came out of the house they went towards home. Bidding her go on, he prepared the cord for the murder. Having tied a noose in one end and passed the other end through it, he walked apace after her and, coming behind her, threw it over her head and drew it tight. She immediately seized it with her hands, and struggled so hard that the cord broke, and he feared she would overpower him. He then thought of his scissors, and, drawing them from the sheath, he thrust them many times into her throat and body, upon which her grasp relaxed, and she soon

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expired. He was soon afterwards arrested and examined by the justices, and though many circumstances appeared against him, yet the first day he confessed nothing; but the next day, finding that they had found out his second wife, and confined her upon suspicion that she had been accessory to the fact, he immediately accused himself, that she might be discharged; and, having fully disclosed the whole affair, he pleaded guilty at his trial, and died with great penitence and resignation, being executed at Tyburn, on the 20th of September, 1756.

EDWARD MORGAN

*Executed and hung in Chains at Glamorgan, 6th of April, 1757,
for murdering a Family and burning down their House*

THE circumstances which came out on the trial of Edward Morgan, at the assizes of Glamorgan, were these. According to annual custom he had been invited by Mr Rees Morgan, of Lanvabon, his cousin, to spend the Christmas holidays. He had partaken of the first day's festivity, and retired to bed along with a young man, apprentice to Mr Rees Morgan. No sooner had he laid his head upon the pillow, to use his own expression, than the devil whispered to him to get up and murder the whole family, and he determined to obey.

He first made an attempt on the apprentice, his bed-fellow, but he struggled so far as to effect his escape and hide himself. The murderer then provided himself with a knife, which he sharpened on a stone as deliberately as the butcher uses his steel.

Thus prepared, he softly crept to the bedchamber of his host and hostess, and cut their throats in their sleep; then he proceeded to the bed of their beautiful daughter, with whom the monster had but an hour before been sporting and playing, and with equal expedition, and by the same means, robbed her of life.

Not, however, satisfied with causing this inundation of

JOHN YOUNG

blood, he seized a firebrand and proceeded to the barn and outhouses, setting fire to them all; and to complete the sum of his crime he fired the dwelling-house, after plundering it of some articles.

The Gloucester Journal of the year 1757 describes the property consumed by fire on this melancholy occasion to have been "the dwelling-house, a barn full of corn, a beast-house with twelve head of cattle in it; and the farmer, his wife and daughter were either murdered or perished in the flames."

It was at first conjectured that the unfortunate people had perished in the conflagration. Their murdered bodies, it is too true, were consumed to ashes; but the manner of their death was proved partly by what the concealed apprentice overheard, but chiefly from the murderer's own confession. Morgan was executed at Glamorgan, on the 6th of April, 1757.

JOHN YOUNG

Convicted of Crimping, or Kidnapping, young Men for the Service of the East India Company, 27th of April, 1757

TO the disgrace of a free country this man-stealing system had long been carried on, and generally with impunity, in London. Among the numerous descriptions of villains who prowled the streets and environs of the metropolis, watching an opportunity to plunder, were a number of ruffians with cockades in their hats, calling themselves recruiting officers, watching country and unguarded youths, whom they decoyed into public-houses, which they had in all quarters of the town; there they plied them with drink, and raised their hopes to enthusiasm, by the description of the vast riches of the East, until they got them sworn in, as it was called, after which nothing more was seldom heard of the wretched dupe. They were hurried on board a ship, confined in a filthy hold, on scanty provisions, and sent to some unfriendly clime, which generally soon put an end to their miseries.

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John Young was one of these mock captains. He had trepanned Henry Soppet, an honest sailor, while intoxicated, and confined him in a spunging or lock-up house, in Chancery Lane, with a design to send him to the East Indies. When sober, Jack, however, made such an uproar that the captain was fain to let go his supposed prize. It did not rest here, for the tar instantly steered to the Lord Mayor and tendered his complaint, in consequence of which the man-stealer was apprehended, and brought to trial for the offence, at the sessions at Guildhall, on the 27th of April, 1757, and found guilty.

The crimp, or man-stealer, Young, pleaded guilty, and endeavoured to cozen the Court, by a mock puritanical whine of contrition, into mercy; but he soon found that he could not trick the City magistrates, who ordered him to be imprisoned in Newgate for twelve months, and at the expiration of that time to give security for his good behaviour for two years more, himself with one hundred pounds and two sureties in fifty pounds each.

THE REV. JOHN GRIERSON AND THE REV. MR WILKINSON

*Transported for unlawfully performing the Marriage
Ceremony in 1757. A Glimpse into a Shameful
Custom which led to the passing of the
Marriage Act in 1754*

ONE of the most disgraceful customs observed in the Fleet Prison in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries was the performance of the marriage ceremony by disreputable and dissolute clergymen. These functionaries, mostly prisoners for debt, insulted the dignity of their holy profession by marrying in the precincts of the Fleet Prison, at a minute's notice, any persons who might present themselves for that purpose. No questions were asked, no stipulations made, except as to the amount of the fee for the service, or the quantity of liquor to be drunk on the

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occasion. It not unfrequently happened, indeed, that the clergyman, the clerk, the bridegroom and the bride were drunk at the very time the ceremony was performed.

These disgraceful members of the sacred calling had their "plyers," or "barkers," who, if they caught sight of a man and woman walking together along the streets of the neighbourhood, pestered them with solicitations, not easily to be shaken off, as to whether they wanted a clergyman to marry them. Mr Burn, a gentleman who published a curious work on the Fleet Registers, had in his possession an engraving (published about 1747) of *A Fleet Wedding between a Brisk Young Sailor and Landlady's Daughter at Rederiff*. "The print," he wrote, "represents the old Fleet market and prison, with the sailor, landlady and daughter just stepping from a hackney-coach, while two Fleet parsons in canonicals are contending for the job. The following verses were in the margin:—

"Scarce had the coach discharg'd its trusty fare,
But gaping crowds surround th' amorous pair;
The busy Plyers make a mighty stir,
And whisp'ring cry, 'D'ye want the Parson, sir?
Pray step this way—just to the pen in hand,
The Doctor's ready there at your command':
'This way' (another cries), 'sir, I declare,
The true and ancient Register is here':

Th'alarmed Parsons quickly hear the din,
And haste with soothing words t'invite 'em in:
In this confusion jostled to and fro,
Th' enamour'd couple know not where to go,
Till, slow advancing from the coach's side,
Th' experienc'd matron came (an artful guide):
She led the way without regarding either,
And the first Parson splic'd 'em both together."

One of the most notorious of these scandalous officials was a man of the name of George Keith, a Scottish minister,

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who, being in desperate circumstances, set up a marriage office in Mayfair, and subsequently in the Fleet, and carried on the same trade which has since been practised in front of the blacksmith's anvil at Gretna Green. This man's wedding business was so extensive and so scandalous that the Bishop of London found it necessary to excommunicate him. It was said of this person and "*his journeyman*" that one morning, during the Whitsun holidays, they united a greater number of couples than had been married at any ten churches within the bills of mortality. Keith lived till he was eighty-nine years of age, and died in 1735. The Rev. Dr Gaynham, another infamous functionary, was familiarly called the Bishop of Hell.

"Many of the early Fleet weddings," wrote Mr Burn, "were *really* performed at the chapel of the Fleet; but as the practice extended, it was found more convenient to have other places, within the Rules of the Fleet (added to which the Warden was forbidden, by Act of Parliament, to suffer them), and thereupon many of the Fleet parsons and tavern-keepers in the neighbourhood fitted up a room in their respective lodgings or houses as a chapel! The parsons took the fees, allowing a portion to the plyers, etc.; and the tavern-keepers, besides sharing in the money paid, derived a profit from the sale of liquors which the wedding-party drank. In some instances the tavern-keepers *kept a parson on the establishment*, at a weekly salary of twenty shillings! Most of the taverns near the Fleet kept their own registers, in which (as well as in their own books) the parsons entered the weddings." Some of these scandalous members of the highest of all professions were in the habit of hanging signs out of their windows with the words "WEDDINGS PERFORMED CHEAP HERE."

Keith, of whom we have already spoken, seems to have been a barefaced profligate; but there is something exceedingly affecting in the stings of conscience and forlorn compunction of one Walter Wyatt, a Fleet parson, in one of whose pocket-books of 1716 are the following secret (as he intended them to be) outpourings of remorse:—

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"Give to every man his due, and learn y^e way of truth."

"This advice cannot be taken by those that are concerned in y^e Fleet marriages; not so much as y^e Priest can do y^e thing y^t it is just and right there, unless he designs to starve. For by lying, bullying, and swearing, to extort money from the silly and unwary people, you advance your business and get y^e pelf, which always wastes like snow in sunshiney day."

"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. The marrying in the Fleet is the beginning of eternal woe."

"If a clerk or plyer tells a lye, you must vouch it to be as true as y^e Gospel, and if disputed, you must affirm with an oath to y^e truth of a downright damnable falsehood.—*Virtus laudatur & alget*." ¹

"May God forgive me what is past, and give me grace to forsake such a wicked place, where truth and virtue can't take place unless you are resolved to starve."

But this very man, whose sense of his own disgrace was so deep and apparently so contrite, was one of the most notorious, active and money-making of all the Fleet parsons. His practice was chiefly in taverns, and he was known to earn nearly sixty pounds in less than a month.

With such facilities for marriage, and such unprincipled ministers, it may easily be imagined that iniquitous schemes of all sorts were perpetrated under the name of Fleet weddings. The parsons were ready, for a bribe, to make false entries in their registers, to antedate weddings, to give fictitious certificates, and to marry persons who would declare only the initials of their names. Thus if a spinster or widow in debt desired to cheat her creditors, by pretending to have been married before the debt was contracted, she had only

¹ "On Saturday last a Fleet parson was convicted before Sir Ric. Brocas of forty-three oaths (on the information of a plyer for weddings there), for which a warrant was granted to levy £4, 6s. on the goods of the said parson; but, upon application to his Worship, he was pleased to remit 1s. per oath; upon which the plyer swore he would swear no more against any man upon the like occasion, finding he could get nothing by it."—*Grub Street Journal*, 20th July, 1732.

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to present herself at one of the marriage-houses in the Fleet and, upon payment of a small additional fee to the clergyman, a man could instantly be found on the spot to act as bridegroom for a few shillings, and the worthless chaplain could find a blank place in his register for any year desired, so that there was no difficulty in making the necessary record. They would also, for a consideration, obliterate any given entry. The sham bridegrooms, under different names, were married over and over again, with the full knowledge of the clerical practitioners. If, in other instances, a libertine desired to possess himself of any young and unsuspecting woman who would not yield without being married, nothing was easier than to get the service performed at the Fleet, without even the specification of names; so that the poor girl might with impunity be shaken off at pleasure. Or if a parent found it necessary to legitimatise his natural children, a Fleet parson could be procured to give a marriage certificate at any required date. In fact, all manner of people presented themselves for marriage at the unholy dens in the Fleet taverns—runaway sons and daughters of peers; Irish adventurers and foolish rich widows; clodhoppers and ladies from St Giles's; footmen and decayed beauties; soldiers and servant-girls; boys in their teens and old women of seventy; discarded mistresses "given away" by their former admirers to pitiable and sordid bridegrooms; night-wanderers and intoxicated apprentices; men and women having already wives and husbands; young heiresses conveyed thither by force and compelled, *in terrorem*, to be brides, and common labourers and female paupers dragged by parish officers to the profane altar, stained by the relics of drunken orgies and reeking with the fumes of liquor and tobacco! Nay, it sometimes happened that the "contracting parties" would send from houses of vile repute for a Fleet parson, who could readily be found to attend even in such places and under such circumstances, and there unite the couple in matrimony!

Of what were called the "Parish Weddings" it is impossible to speak in terms of sufficient reprobation. Many

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of the churchwardens and overseers of that day were in the frequent practice of "getting up" marriages in order to throw their paupers on neighbouring parishes. For example, in *The Daily Post* of the 4th of July, 1741, is the following paragraph:—

"On Saturday last the churchwardens for a certain parish in the City, in order to remove a load from their own shoulders, gave forty shillings, and paid the expense of a Fleet marriage, to a miserable blind youth, known by the name of Ambrose Tally, who plays on the violin in Moorfields, in order to make a settlement on the wife and future family in Shoreditch parish. To secure their point they sent a parish officer to see the ceremony performed. One cannot but admire the ungenerous proceeding of this City parish, as well as their unjustifiable abetting and encouraging an irregularity so much and so justly complained of as these Fleet matches. Invited and uninvited were a great number of poor wretches, in order to spend the bride's parish fortune."

In the *Grub Street Journal* for 1735 is the following letter, faithfully describing, says Mr Burn, the treachery and low habits of the Fleet parsons:—

SIR,—There is a very great evil in this town, and of dangerous consequence to our sex, that has never been suppressed, to the great prejudice and ruin of many hundreds of young people every year, which I beg some of your learned heads to consider of, and consult of proper ways and means to prevent for the future. I mean the ruinous marriages that are practised in the liberty of the Fleet and thereabouts, by a set of drunken, swearing parsons, with their myrmidons, that wear black coats, and pretend to be clerks and registers to the Fleet. These ministers of wickedness ply about Ludgate Hill, pulling and forcing people to some pedling ale-house or a brandy-shop to be married, even on a Sunday stopping them as they go to church and almost tearing their clothes off their backs. To confirm the truth of these facts I will give you a case or two which lately happened.

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Since Midsummer last a young lady of birth and fortune was deluded and forced from her friends, and, by the assistance of a wrynecked, swearing parson, married to an atheistical wretch, whose life is a continued practice of all manner of vice and debauchery. And since the ruin of my relation, another lady of my acquaintance had like to have been trepanned in the following manner. This lady had appointed to meet a gentlewoman at the Old Playhouse, in Drury Lane, but extraordinary business prevented her coming. Being alone when the play was done, she bade a boy call a coach for the city. One dressed like a gentleman helps her into it and jumps in after her. "Madam," says he, "this coach was called for me, and since the weather is so bad, and there is no other, I beg leave to bear you company. I am going into the City, and will set you down wherever you please." The lady begged to be excused; but he bade the coachman drive on. Being come to Ludgate Hill, he told her his sister, who waited his coming but five doors up the court, would go with her in two minutes. He went, and returned with his pretended sister, who asked her to step in one minute, and she would wait upon her in the coach. Deluded with the assurance of having his sister's company, the poor lady foolishly followed her into the house, when instantly the sister vanished and a tawny fellow in a black coat and black wig appeared. "Madam, you are come in good time; the Doctor was just a-going." "The Doctor!" says she, horribly frightened, fearing it was a madhouse; "what has the Doctor to do with me?" "To marry you to that gentleman. The Doctor has waited for you these three hours, and will be paid by you or that gentleman before you go!" "That gentleman," says she, recovering herself, "is worthy a better fortune than mine," and begged hard to be gone. But Doctor Wryneck swore she should be married, or if she would not, he would still have his fee, and register the marriage from that night. The lady, finding she could not escape without money or a pledge, told them she liked the gentleman so well she would certainly meet him to-morrow night, and gave them a ring as a pledge, which, says she,

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"was my mother's gift on her death-bed, enjoining that if ever I married it should be my wedding-ring." By which cunning contrivance she was delivered from the black doctor and his tawny crew. Some time after this I went with this lady and her brother in a coach to Ludgate Hill, in the daytime, to see the manner of their picking up people to be married. As soon as our coach stopped near Fleet Bridge, up comes one of the myrmidons. "Madam," says he, "you want a parson?" "Who are you?" says I. "I am the clerk and register of the Fleet." "Show me the chapel." At which comes a second, desiring me to go along with him. Says he: "That fellow will carry you to a peddling ale-house." Says a third: "Go with me; he will carry you to a brandy-shop." In the interim comes the Doctor. "Madam," says he, "I'll do your job for you presently!" "Well, gentlemen," says I, "since you can't agree, and I can't be married quietly, I'll put it off until another time"; so drove away. Learned sirs, I wrote this in regard to the honour and safety of my own sex; and if for our sakes you will be so good as to publish it, correcting the errors of a woman's pen, you will oblige our whole sex, and none more than, sir, your constant reader and admirer,

VIRTUOUS.

Such were but a few of the iniquities practised by the ministers of the Fleet. Similar transactions were carried on at the Chapel in Mayfair, the Mint in the Borough, the Savoy, and other places about London; until the public scandal became so great, especially in consequence of the marriage at the Fleet of the Hon. Henry Fox with Georgiana Caroline, eldest daughter of the Duke of Richmond, that at length—not, however, without much and zealous opposition—a Marriage Bill was passed, enacting that any person solemnising matrimony in any other than a church or public chapel, without banns or licence, should, on conviction, be adjudged guilty of felony, and be transported for fourteen years, and that all such marriages should be void. This Act was to take effect from the 25th of March, 1754.

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Upon the passing of this law, Keith, the parson who has already been alluded to, published a pamphlet entitled, *Observations on the Act for Preventing Clandestine Marriages*. To this he prefixed his portrait. The following passages are highly characteristic of the man :—

“ ‘ Happy is the wooing that is not long a-doing ’ is an old proverb, and a very true one; but we shall have no occasion for it after the 25th day of March next, when we are commanded to read it backwards, and from that period (fatal indeed to Old England !) we must date the declension of the numbers of the inhabitants of England.” “ As I have married many thousands, and consequently have on those occasions seen the humour of the lower class of people, I have often asked the married pair how long they had been acquainted; they would reply, some more, some less, but the generality did not exceed the acquaintance of a week, some only of a day, half-a-day, etc.” “ Another inconvenience which will arise from this Act will be, that the expense of being married will be so great, that few of the lower class of people can afford; for I have often heard a Fleet parson say that many have come to be married when they have but had half-a-crown in their pockets, and sixpence to buy a pot of beer, and for which they have pawned some of their clothes.” “ I remember once on a time, I was at a public-house at Radcliffe, which then was full of sailors and their girls; there was fiddling, piping, jigging and eating; at length, one of the tars starts up and says: ‘ D—n ye, Jack, I’ll be married just now; I will have my partner, and . . . ’ The joke took, and in less than two hours ten couples set out for the Fleet; I stayed their return. They returned in coaches, five women in each coach, the tars, some running before, others riding on the coach-box, and others behind. The cavalcade being over, the couples went up into an upper room, where they concluded the evening with great jollity. The next time I went that way I called on my landlord and asked him concerning this marriage adventure. He at first stared at me, but recollecting, he said those things were so frequent that he hardly took any notice of them; for, added

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he, it is a common thing, when a fleet comes in, to have two or three hundred marriages in a week's time, among the sailors." He humorously concludes: "If the present Act in the form it now stands should (which I am sure is impossible) be of service to my country, I shall then have the satisfaction of having been the occasion of it, because the compilers thereof have done it with a pure design of suppressing my *Chapel*, which makes me the most celebrated man in this kingdom, though not the greatest."

The passing of the Marriage Act put a stop to the marriages at Mayfair; but the day before the Act came into operation (Lady Day, 1754¹) sixty-one couples were married there.²

It would exceed the limits of this brief sketch were we to give the official history of the different scandalous ministers who thus disgraced themselves, and impiously trifled with one of our most sacred institutions. That some of these wretched adventurers merely pretended to be clergymen is certain; but it cannot be denied that many of them were actually in Holy Orders.

Of this latter class were Grierson and Wilkinson, the subjects of our present notice; and, notwithstanding the heavy penalties imposed by the statute, they were not to be deterred from continuing the dangerous and unlawful traffic in which they had been engaged. Wilkinson, who was the

¹ In a letter to George Montagu, Esq., dated 17th July, 1753, Horace Walpole says:

"Lady Anne Paulett's daughter is eloped with a country clergyman. The Duchess of Argyle harangues against the Marriage Bill not taking place immediately, and is persuaded that all the girls will go off before next Lady Day."

² In a letter to George Montagu, Esq., from Horace Walpole, is the following notice of Keith:—

STRAWBERRY HILL, 11th June, 1753.

"... I shall only tell you a *bon mot* of Keith's, the marriage-broker, and conclude:

"'G—d d—n the Bishops!' said he (I beg Miss Montagu's pardon), 'so they will hinder my marrying. Well, let 'em, but I'll be revenged: I'll buy two or three acres of ground, and by G—d I'll under-bury them all.'"

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brother of a celebrated comedian of the day, it would appear, was the owner of a chapel in the Savoy, and Grierson was his assistant ; and, their proceedings having at length become too notorious to be passed over, proceedings were instituted against them. Grierson was first apprehended, and his employer sought safety in flight ; but supposing that he could not be deemed guilty of any offence, as he had not actually performed the marriage ceremony—a duty which he left to his journeyman—he returned to his former haunts. It was not long before he was secured however, and, having been convicted with Grierson, they were shipped off as convicts together to the colonies, in the year 1757.

WILLIAM ADAMS

*A Custom-House Officer in London, executed at Tyburn
on 18th of May, 1757, for Forgery*

WILLIAM ADAMS was in a position of public trust. The department in which he served the public was the examining of certificates of over-entries on the duties on wines. This gave him an opportunity, with the greatest security, of committing the crime for which he suffered, and it is possible he might long have continued the practice had not an accidental omission of a date led to the discovery.

It was usual for merchants landing their wines to pay the duty ; but if upon trial they appeared to be so damaged as not to be saleable, upon a proper application, and giving up the wines for the King's use, they were furnished with such certificates as entitled them to the repayment of the duty.

It was a certificate of this kind which Adams forged ; and though such certificates are usually signed by six different persons, who are severally checks upon each other, yet he had counterfeited the names and signatures of all these, and actually received the drawback on ten tuns of damaged wines, amounting to two hundred and fifty-two pounds, for the use of Phineas Coats, in whose name the certificate was

WILLIAM PAGE

forged. But it being immediately discovered that a figure in the date was wanting, and he offering to supply it himself, a suspicion arose, and an inquiry was occasioned ; upon which it was found that not one of the clerks whose signatures appeared knew anything of the matter.

Adams was apprehended, committed, and brought to trial at the Old Bailey for this forgery. He had little to urge in his defence further than that it had been a practice to receive such certificates as cash ; that he had received this particular certificate as such ; and that if it was forged he knew nothing of the forgery. This had no weight against the evidence which appeared against him, in the opinion of the jury, who, without hesitation, pronounced him guilty. He was executed on the same gallows with three other men.

WILLIAM PAGE

*A Gentleman of the Road who drove in a Phaeton and Pair,
and after many Adventures was executed for Highway
Robbery on 6th of April, 1758*

WILLIAM PAGE was the son of a respectable farmer at Hampton, and being a lad of promising parts he was sent to London to be educated, under the care of his cousin, a haberdasher. His early life, by the superstitious believers of old sayings, would be adduced as proof positive of the truth of the old adage that "a man who is born to be hanged will never be drowned" ; and, although we cannot put much faith generally in such notions, we cannot help in this instance pointing out some peculiarities in the adventures of our hero which might have been considered by him as a sufficient indication of his fate. The early chronicler of his life says that, during the hard frost in the winter of 1739, Page was sliding with other boys on the canal in St James's Park, when the ice broke under him and he sank ; and, the ice immediately closing over him, he would have perished, but just at this juncture the ice again broke

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with another boy near him, and Page arose precisely at the vacancy made by the latter, and was saved, although his companion was drowned. The second instance of the intervention of his good fortune occurred in the summer following this singular escape. Page was then trying to swim with corks in the Thames, when they slipped from under his arms and he sank ; but a waterman got him up, and he soon recovered. On the third occasion he was going up the river on a party of pleasure, about five years afterwards, with several other young fellows, when the boat upset with them in Chelsea Reach, and every one in the boat was drowned except Page. But his fourth and last escape from a watery grave was even more miraculous than any of those which preceded it. About eighteen months after that which is last related he was on a voyage to Scotland. The ship in which he sailed foundered in Yarmouth Roads, and most of the people on board perished ; but another vessel, observing their distress, sent out a long-boat, by the help of which Page and a few others saved their lives.

To return, however, to the ordinary events of his life. It appeared that, his cousin having given him employment in his shop, his vanity prevented him from bestowing that attention on his business to which it was entitled ; and his extravagance being checked by his relation, who stopped his pocket-money in order to curb his refined notions, he had recourse to plunder to supply his necessities. Money being repeatedly missed from the till, and all attempts to discover the thief among the servants having failed, suspicion at length rested on our hero ; and, his guilt having been distinctly proved, he was dismissed from his situation forthwith. An effort which he made to conciliate his relation after this proved ineffectual ; and his father, who had learned the nature of his irregularities, having refused to render him any assistance, he at length journeyed to York, and there joined a company of strolling players. His exertions in his new capacity were not unsuccessful ; but at length, attempting to play Cato while in a state of intoxication, his character in the play and his condition of person were found to agree



Wm. Page

W^m PAGE leaving his Phoenix, while he ROBS
Gentleman, near Putney

John Bull

WILLIAM PAGE

so badly that he was compelled to be carried from the stage, and was dismissed from his engagement. He afterwards went to Scarborough, where his necessities compelled him to accept a situation as livery-servant with a gentleman; but, his master having been robbed on his way to town, he formed a notion that highway robbery was an easy and profitable mode of living, and determined that so soon as he should have the means of starting in the profession he would become a "gentleman of the road." Quitting his master at the end of twelve months he became acquainted with a woman of abandoned character, in conjunction with whom he took lodgings near Charing Cross, and he then commenced as highwayman. His first expedition was on the Kentish Road, and meeting the Canterbury stage, near Shooter's Hill, he robbed the passengers of watches and money to the amount of about thirty pounds; and then, riding through a great part of Kent to take an observation of the cross-roads, he returned to London. He now took lodgings near Grosvenor Square, and, frequenting billiard-tables, won a little money, which, added to his former stock, prevented his having recourse to the highway again for a considerable time. But at length he met with a gambler who was more expert than himself and stripped him of all his money. He then again sought the road as a means of subsistence. His exertions were for some time fruitless, but at length meeting with a handsome booty he was emboldened by his success, and, taking luxurious lodgings, soon gained the friendship of some young men of fashion. His next object was to improve his mind and person; and, having gained some knowledge, by dint of impudence and through a pleasing exterior he got introduced into decent society.

By this time he had drawn, from his own observation and for his private use, a most curious map of the roads twenty miles round London, and, driving in a phaeton and pair, was not suspected for a highwayman.

In his excursions for robbery he used to dress in a laced or embroidered frock, and wear his hair tied behind; but

NEWGATE CALENDAR

when at a distance from London he would turn into some unfrequented place and, having disguised himself in other clothes, with a grizzled or black wig, and saddled one of his horses, he would ride to the main road and commit a robbery. This done, he would hasten back to the carriage, resume his former dress, and drive to town again.

He had once an escape of a very remarkable kind. Having robbed a gentleman near Putney, some persons came up at the juncture and pursued him so closely that he was obliged to cross the Thames for his security. In the interim some haymakers, crossing the field where Page's carriage was left, found and carried off his gay apparel; and the persons who had pursued him, meeting them, charged them with being accomplices in the robbery. A report of this affair being soon spread, Page heard of it, and, throwing his clothes into a well, he went back almost naked, claimed the carriage as his own, and declared that the men had stripped him and thrown him into a ditch. All the parties now went before a Justice of the Peace; and the maker of the carriage appearing, and declaring that it was the property of Mr Page, the poor haymakers were committed for trial; but obtained their liberty after the next assizes, as Page did not appear to prosecute.

After this he made no further use of the phaeton as a disguise for his robberies; but it served him occasionally on parties of pleasure, which he sometimes took with a girl whom he had then in keeping.

The road and the gaming-table were his only means of support, and he found a fitting companion in his proceedings in the person of an old schoolfellow named Darwell, in conjunction with whom, in the course of three years, he committed upwards of three hundred robberies. At length, however, their iniquitous proceedings caused an active search to be made for them; and Darwell, being apprehended, "peached" upon his companion, and disclosed the places where it was most likely that he would be found.

The consequence was that Page was apprehended at the Golden Lion, near Hyde Park, when three loaded pistols

JAMES WHITE AND WALTER WHITE

were found on him, with powder, balls, a wig to disguise himself, and the correct map of the roads round London which we have already mentioned.

He was sent to Newgate, and an advertisement was inserted in the papers requesting such persons as had been robbed to attend his re-examination; but he denied all that was alleged against him, and as he was always disguised when he committed any robbery no person present could identify his person.

He was tried at length on suspicion of robbing Mr Webb in Belfourd Lane, but acquitted for want of evidence; and after this he was tried at Hertford, but again acquitted for a like reason.

From Hertford he was removed to Maidstone Jail, and being tried at Rochester, for robbing Captain Farrington on Blackheath, he was capitally convicted, and received sentence of death. He suffered at Maidstone on the 6th of April, 1758.

JAMES WHITE AND WALTER WHITE

Brothers who were executed at Kennington Common, 19th of April, 1758, for Robbery with Violence

_____ brothers were natives of Surrey, and had resided in the neighbourhood of Guildford and Godalming. They were long accounted lazy, sottish fellows, seldom seen at labour, yet ever sneaking about, and tippling in public-houses. Their supply of money to support these low and idle debaucheries had been long suspected, yet, though many petty larcenies had been committed in the neighbourhood, no charge had been brought forward against them.

At length, however, justice, though slow, yet sure, overtook them. They were apprehended on suspicion of committing a robbery and burglary in the house of Mr Robert Vincent, a farmer of Crawley, in the said county, in consequence of information being given against them by an accomplice, who in fact seduced them into the robbery—

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a depredation of a magnitude which they had not before attempted.

Being arraigned at the Lent Assizes held at Kingston, in the year 1758, it appeared in evidence on their trial that the prisoners beat Mr Vincent inhumanly, and threatened to burn him alive if he did not discover where his money was hidden. They then robbed him of four pounds eighteen shillings in silver, one Portugal piece, value thirty-six shillings, two guineas and a half, and various other articles.

They were found guilty on the clearest evidence. At the place of execution they acknowledged the justice of their sentence.

While these unhappy men were yet struggling for life, an infant, of about nine months' old, was put into the hands of the executioner, who nine times passed the hands of each of the dying men over its face. The child had a wen on its cheek, and the ignorant, superstitious mother conceived it could be cured by dead men's hands!

The elder of these unfortunate brothers was twenty-three and the other had but just turned twenty-one years of age.

MARY EDMONDSON

*Strongly protesting her Innocence, she was executed on
Kennington Common, 2nd of April, 1759, for
the Murder of her Aunt*

THIS unhappy girl was the daughter of a farmer near Leeds, in Yorkshire, and was sent to reside with her aunt, Mrs Walker, of Rotherhithe, who was a widow lady. With this aunt she lived two years, comporting herself in the most decent manner, and regularly attending the duties of religion.

A lady, named Toucher, having spent the evening with Mrs Walker, Mary Edmondson lighted her across the street on her way home, and soon after her return a woman who cried oysters through the street observed that the door was open and heard the girl cry out: "Help!

MARY EDMONDSON

Murder ! They have killed my aunt ! ” Edmondson now ran to the house of Mrs Odell, wringing her hands and bewailing the misfortune, and, the neighbours being by this time alarmed, some gentlemen went from a public-house, where they had spent the evening, determined to inquire into the affair. They found Mrs Walker, with her throat cut, lying on her right side, and her head near a table, which was covered with linen. One of the gentlemen, named Holloway, said : “ This is very strange ; I know not what to make of it : let us examine the girl.”

Her account of the matter was that four men had entered at the back door, one of whom put his arms round her aunt’s neck, and another, who was a tall man, dressed in black, swore that he would kill her if she spoke a single word.

Mr Holloway, observing that the girl’s arm was cut, asked her how it had happened ; to which she replied that one of the men, in attempting to get out, had jammed it with the door. But Holloway, judging from all appearances that no men had been in the house, said he did not believe her, but supposed she was the murderer of her aunt.

On this charge she fell into a fit and, being removed to a neighbour’s house, was bled by a surgeon, and continued there till the following day, when the coroner’s inquest sat on the body, and brought in a verdict of wilful murder ; whereupon she was committed to prison, on the coroner’s warrant.

Mrs Walker’s executors, anxious to discover the truth, caused the house to be diligently searched, and found that a variety of things, which Mary Edmondson had said were stolen, were not missing ; nor could they discover that anything was lost. Mrs Walker’s watch and some other articles which she said had been carried off by the murderers were found under the floor of the necessary-house.

Being committed to the New Jail, Southwark, she remained there till the next assizes for Surrey, when she was tried at Kingston, and convicted on evidence which, though acknowledged to be circumstantial, was such as, in the general opinion, admitted little doubt of her guilt.

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She made a defence indeed; but there was not enough of probability in it to have any weight.

Being condemned on Saturday, to be executed on the Monday following, she was lodged in the prison at Kingston, whence she wrote to her parents, most solemnly avowing her innocence. She likewise begged that the minister of the parish would preach a sermon on the occasion of her death.

She asserted her innocence on the Sunday, when she was visited by a clergyman and several other people; yet was her behaviour devout, and apparently sincere.

Being taken out of prison on the Monday morning, she got into a post-chaise with the keeper, and, arriving at the Peacock, in Kennington Lane, about nine o'clock, there drank a glass of wine; and then, being put into a cart, was conveyed to the place of execution, where she behaved devoutly, and made the following address to the surrounding multitude :—

“It is now too late to trifle either with God or man. I solemnly declare that I am innocent of the crime laid to my charge. I am very easy in my mind, as I suffer with as much pleasure as if I was going to sleep. I freely forgive my prosecutors, and earnestly beg your prayers for my departing soul.”

After execution her body was conveyed to St Thomas's Hospital, Southwark, and there dissected, agreeably to the laws respecting murderers.

JOHN STEVENSON

Convicted of the Manslaughter of Francis Elcock, an Attorney-at-Law, who had issued a Writ against him

JOHN STEVENSON was a cheese-factor at Bickerton, and, becoming insolvent, fortified himself in his house, and admitted nobody within the doors for fear of an arrest.

A writ was issued out against him by Elcock, at the suit of one Atkins, for eighteen pounds, eight shillings and tenpence; a warrant was made out upon the writ by one

JOHN STEVENSON

Baxter, who, by verbal appointment, acted for the under-sheriff. This warrant was delivered sealed to Elcock, or his agent, directed to one John Evans, a bailiff, and a blank left in it for the names of any other person by whom the attorney should think fit to have it executed, such being the custom of the place. After the warrant had been thus sealed and delivered, Elcock inserted the names of John James and John Jones, who were deemed bailiffs-extraordinary for this particular arrest; and as they had not given bond to the sheriff, Elcock undertook, by an endorsement on the warrant, to indemnify the sheriff from any injury he might suffer by the act of John James and John Jones, whose names he had inserted in the warrant, and to whom he had committed the execution of it.

John James found means to get into Stevenson's house by stratagem, and arrested him upon this warrant, but Stevenson rescued himself by snapping a pistol three times at James, which happily missed fire, and James escaped from the house and left his prisoner behind him.

When Elcock learned that Stevenson had been arrested, and rescued himself, he immediately sent for arms and a crow to break open the door, and retake Stevenson by force.

Several persons soon after assembled armed, and with James and Jones, the bailiffs, beset the house. James had put an iron crow under one door of the house and made an attempt to force it off the hinges; but, failing, he left Elcock at that door with the crow lying under it, directing him to watch that Stevenson did not escape, and went himself to another door. When James was gone, Elcock took up the crow, and, while he was making another effort with it to force the door, Stevenson discharged a gun through the door at him, which gave him a mortal wound, of which he died in about ten hours.

The facts were all incontestably proved, and that Stevenson knew the persons who were about to force his door were assistants to the bailiffs from whom he had rescued himself; but it was insisted by the counsel for the prisoner—First, that the warrant was not good, because it was issued by a

NEWGATE CALENDAR

person who had no legal delegation of authority from the sheriff to grant it, verbal appointment being insufficient. To this it was replied, on behalf of the Crown, that it had been the custom immemorial for clerks to attend at the office of sheriffs and make out warrants upon writs directed to them, particularly at the two counters in London, and at the Middlesex office in Furnival's Inn. Secondly, it was insisted for the prisoner that the insertion of the names of the bailiffs by whom the warrant was to be executed, after the warrant was sealed, made it an illegal warrant; and Lord Hale was quoted, who says: "If a sheriff's bailiff come to execute a process, but has not a legal authority, as if the name of the bailiff, etc., be interlined or inserted after the sealing thereof, if such bailiff be killed it is but manslaughter." To this it was replied that this opinion of Lord Hale being omitted by Serjeant Hawkins, it might be presumed that he doubted it; that if a person gave a bond sealed and executed to another, with a blank for the sum, and directed him to insert two hundred pounds in it, and he to whom the bond was given filled it up, the bond was good, which was supposed to contradict Lord Hale's opinion concerning a warrant.

After further points had been argued it was resolved by the Court to direct the jury to bring in a special verdict, which was accordingly done.

On the 6th of May, 1759, the case of Stevenson was argued before the Hon. Mr Justice Noel, Chief Justice of Chester, and Thomas White, Esq., the other justice, who gave their opinion that the prisoner's crime, found by the special verdict, could amount at most to manslaughter only. Whereupon he was burned in the hand, and discharged from the capital part of the indictment.

EUGENE ARAM

A Self-Educated Man, with remarkable Linguistic Attainments, who was executed at York on 6th of August, 1759, for a Murder discovered Fourteen Years after its Commission

EUGENE ARAM was born in a village called Netherdale, in Yorkshire, in the year 1704, of an ancient family, one of his ancestors having served the office of High Sheriff for that county in the reign of Edward III. The vicissitudes of fortune had, however, reduced them, as we find the father of Eugene a poor but honest man, by profession a gardener, in which humble walk in life he was, nevertheless, greatly respected.

The sweat of his brow alone, we must conclude, was insufficient both to rear and educate his offspring. From the high erudition of the unfortunate subject under consideration, he may be truly called a prodigy. He was self-taught. In the infancy of Aram his parents removed to another village, called Shelton, near Newby, in the said county; and when about six years of age, his father, who had laid by a small sum from his weekly labour, made a purchase of a little cottage in Bondgate, near Ripon.

When he was about thirteen or fourteen years of age he went to his father in Newby, and attended him in the family there till the death of Sir Edward Blackett. It was in the house of this gentleman, to whom his father was gardener, that his propensity for literature first appeared. He was indeed always of a solitary disposition, and uncommonly fond of retirement and books; and here he enjoyed all the advantages of leisure and privacy. He applied himself at first chiefly to mathematical studies, in which he attained considerable proficiency.

At about sixteen years of age he was sent to London, to the house of Mr Christopher Blackett, whom he served for some time in the capacity of book-keeper. After continuing here a year or more he was taken with the smallpox, and

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suffered severely under that distemper. He afterwards returned into Yorkshire, in consequence of an invitation from his father, and there continued to prosecute his studies, but found in polite literature much greater charms than in mathematics; which occasioned him now to apply himself chiefly to poetry, history and antiquities. After this he was invited to Netherdale, where he was employed in a school. He then married. But this marriage proved an unhappy connection; for to the misconduct of his wife he afterwards attributed the misfortunes that befell him. In the meanwhile, having perceived his deficiency in the learned languages, he applied himself to the grammatical study of the Latin and Greek tongues; after which he read, with great avidity and diligence, all the Latin classics, historians and poets. He then went through the Greek Testament; and lastly, ventured upon Hesiod, Homer, Theocritus, Herodotus and Thucydides, together with all the Greek tragedians. In 1734 William Norton, Esq., a gentleman who had a friendship for him, invited him to Knaresborough. Here he acquired a knowledge of Hebrew, and read the Pentateuch in that language. In 1744 he returned to London, and served the Rev. Mr Plainblanc as usher in Latin and writing, in Piccadilly; and, with this gentleman's assistance, acquired a knowledge of the French language. He was afterwards employed as an usher and tutor in several different parts of England, during which time he became acquainted with heraldry and botany. He also ventured upon Chaldee and Arabic, the former of which he found easy, from its near connection with the Hebrew.

He then investigated the Celtic, as far as possible, in all its dialects; and having begun to form collections, and make comparisons between the Celtic, the English, the Latin, the Greek and the Hebrew, and found a great affinity between them, he resolved to proceed through all these languages, and to form a comparative lexicon. But, amid these learned labours and inquiries, it appears that Aram committed a crime which could not naturally have been expected from a man of so studious a turn, as the inducement

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EUGENE ARAM.



EUGENE ARAM .

that led him to it was merely gain of wealth, of which the scholar is seldom covetous. On the 8th of February, 1745, he, in conjunction with a man named Richard Houseman, murdered one Daniel Clarke, a shoemaker at Knaresborough.

This unfortunate man, having married a woman of good family, ostentatiously circulated a report that his wife was entitled to a considerable fortune, which he should soon receive. Thereupon Aram and Richard Houseman, conceiving hopes of making advantage of this circumstance, persuaded Clarke to make an ostentatious show of his own riches, to induce his wife's relations to give him that fortune of which he had boasted. There was sagacity, if not honesty, in this advice, for the world in general are more free to assist persons in affluence than those in distress.

Clarke was easily induced to comply with a hint so agreeable to his own desires; on which he borrowed, and bought on credit, a large quantity of silver plate, with jewels, watches, rings, etc. He told the persons of whom he purchased that a merchant in London had sent him an order to buy such plate for exportation; and no doubt was entertained of his credit till his sudden disappearance in February, 1745, when it was imagined that he had gone abroad, or at least to London, to dispose of his ill-acquired property.

When Clarke got possession of these goods, Aram and Houseman determined to murder him, in order to share the booty; and on the night of the 8th of February, 1745, they persuaded Clarke to walk with them in the fields, in order to consult with them on the proper method to dispose of the effects.

On this plan they walked into a field, at a small distance from the town, well known by the name of St Robert's Cave. When they came into this field, Aram and Clarke went over a hedge towards the cave, and, when they had got within six or seven yards of it, Houseman (by the light of the moon) saw Aram strike Clarke several times, and at length beheld him fall, but never saw him afterwards. This was the state of the affair, if Houseman's testimony on the trial might be credited.

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The murderers, going home, shared Clarke's ill-gotten treasure, the half of which Houseman concealed in his garden for a twelvemonth, and then took it to Scotland, where he sold it. In the meantime Aram carried his share to London, where he sold it to a Jew, and then engaged himself as an usher at an academy in Piccadilly, where, in the intervals of his duty in attending on the scholars, he made himself master of the French language, and acquired some knowledge of the Arabic and other Eastern languages.

After this he was usher at other schools in different parts of the kingdom, but as he did not correspond with his friends in Yorkshire it was presumed that he was dead.

Thus had nearly fourteen years passed on without the smallest clue being found to account for the sudden exit of Clarke.

In the year 1758 a labourer was employed to dig for stone to supply a lime-kiln, at a place called Thistle Hill, near Knaresborough, and, having dug about two feet deep, he found the bones of a human body, and the bones being still joined to each other by the ligatures of the joints, the body appeared to have been buried double. This accident immediately became the subject of general curiosity and inquiry. Some hints had been formerly thrown out by Aram's wife that Clarke was murdered, and it was well remembered that his disappearance was very sudden.

This occasioned Aram's wife to be sent for, as was also the coroner, and an inquisition was entered into, it being believed that the skeleton found was that of Daniel Clarke. Mrs Aram declared that she believed Clarke had been murdered by her husband and Richard Houseman. The latter, when he was brought before the coroner, appeared to be in great confusion, trembling, changing colour and faltering in his speech during the examination. The coroner desired him to take up one of the bones, probably to observe what further effect that might produce; and Houseman, accordingly taking up one of the bones, said: "This is no more Dan Clarke's bone than it is mine."

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enormity I am altogether incapable of—a fact, to the commission of which there goes far more insensibility of heart, more profligacy of morals, than ever fell to my lot; and nothing possibly could have admitted a presumption of this nature but a depravity not inferior to that imputed to me. However, as I stand indicted at your Lordship's bar, and have heard what is called evidence adduced in support of such a charge, I very humbly solicit your Lordship's patience, and beg the hearing of this respectable audience, while I, single and unskilful, destitute of friends and unassisted by counsel, say something, perhaps like argument, in my defence. I shall consume but little of your Lordship's time. What I have to say will be short; and this brevity, probably, will be the best part of it. However it is offered with all possible regard and the greatest submission to your Lordship's consideration and that of this honourable Court.

“First, my Lord, the whole tenor of my conduct in life contradicts every particular of the indictment: yet had I never said this, did not my present circumstances extort it from me, and seem to make it necessary? Permit me here, my Lord, to call upon malignity itself, so long and cruelly busied in this prosecution, to charge upon me any immorality of which prejudice was not the author. No, my Lord, I concerted no schemes of fraud, projected no violence, injured no man's person or property. My days were honestly laborious, my nights intensely studious; and I humbly conceive my notice of this, especially at this time, will not be thought impertinent or unseasonable, but at least deserving of some attention; because, my Lord, that any person, after a temperate use of life, a series of thinking and acting regularly, and without one single deviation from sobriety, should plunge into the very depth of profligacy precipitately and at once, is altogether improbable and unprecedented, absolutely inconsistent with the course of things. Mankind is never corrupted at once. Villainy is always progressive, and declines from right step by step,

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till every regard of probity is lost, and every sense of all moral obligation totally perishes.

“Again, my Lord, a suspicion of this kind, which nothing but malevolence could entertain and ignorance propagate, is violently opposed by my very situation at that time with respect to health ; for, but a little space before, I had been confined to my bed, and suffered under a very long and severe disorder, and was not able, for half-a-year together, so much as to walk. The distemper left me indeed, yet slowly, and in part, but so macerated, so enfeebled, that I was reduced to crutches ; and so far from being well about the time I am charged with this fact, I have never to this day perfectly recovered. Could then a person in this condition take anything into his head so unlikely, so extravagant ? —I, past the vigour of my age, feeble and valetudinary, with no inducement to engage, no ability to accomplish, no weapon wherewith to perpetrate such a deed, without interest, without power, without motive, without means. Besides, it must needs occur to everyone that an action of this atrocious nature is never heard of but when its springs are laid open. It appears that it was to support some indolence or supply some luxury ; to satisfy some avarice or oblige some malice ; to prevent some real or some imaginary want : yet I lay not under the influence of these. Surely, my Lord, I may, consistently with both truth and modesty, affirm thus much ; and none who have any veracity and knew me will ever question this.

“In the second place, the disappearance of Clarke is suggested as an argument of his being dead ; but the uncertainty of such an inference from that, and the fallibility of all conclusions of such a sort from such a circumstance, are too obvious and too notorious to require instances ; yet superseding many, permit me to produce a very recent one, and that afforded by this Castle.

“In June, 1757, William Thompson, for all the vigilance of this place, in open daylight and double-ironed, made his escape, and, notwithstanding an immediate inquiry set on foot, the strictest search, and all advertisement, was never

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heard of since. If, then, Thompson got off unseen, through all these difficulties, how very easy it was for Clarke, when none of them opposed him ! But what would be thought of a prosecution commenced against anyone seen last with Thompson ?

“ Permit me next, my Lord, to observe a little upon the bones which have been discovered. It is said (which perhaps is saying very far) that these are the skeleton of a man. It is possible, indeed, it may be ; but is there any certain known criterion which incontestably distinguishes the sex in human bones ? Let it be considered, my Lord, whether the ascertaining of this point ought not to precede any attempt to identify them.

“ The place of their *depositum*, too, claims much more attention than is commonly bestowed upon it ; for, of all places in the world, none could have mentioned any one wherein there was greater certainty of finding human bones than a hermitage, except he should point out a churchyard ; hermitages, in time past, being not only places of religious retirement, but of burial too : and it has scarce or never been heard of, but that every cell now known contains or contained these relics of humanity, some mutilated and some entire. I do not inform, but give me leave to remind your Lordship that here sat solitary Sanctity, and here the hermit or the anchoress hoped that repose for their bones when dead they here enjoyed when living.

“ All the while, my Lord, I am sensible this is known to your Lordship, and many in this court, better than to me ; but it seems necessary to my case that others, who have not at all perhaps adverted to things of this nature, and may have concern in my trial, should be made acquainted with it. Suffer me then, my Lord, to produce a few of many evidences that these cells were used as repositories of the dead, and to enumerate a few in which human bones have been found, as it happened in this question ; lest to some that accident might seem extraordinary, and consequently occasion prejudice.

“ 1. The bones, as was supposed, of the Saxon saint,

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Dubritius, were discovered buried in his cell at Guy's Cliff, near Warwick ; as appears from the authority of Sir William Dugdale.

" 2. The bones thought to be those of the anchoress Rosia were but lately discovered in a cell at Royston, entire, fair and undecayed, though they must have lain interred for several centuries ; as is proved by Dr Stukely.

" 3. But my own country—nay, almost this neighbourhood—supplies another instance ; for in January, 1747, were found, by Mr Stovin, accompanied by a reverend gentleman, the bones, in part, of some recluse, in the cell at Lindholm, near Hatfield. They were believed to be those of William of Lindholm, a hermit, who had long made this cave his habitation.

" 4. In February, 1744, part of Woburn Abbey being pulled down, a large portion of a corpse appeared, even with the flesh on, and which bore cutting with a knife ; though it is certain this had lain above two hundred years, and how much longer is doubtful, for this abbey was founded in 1145, and dissolved in 1538 or 1539.

" What would have been said, what believed, if this had been an accident to the bones in question ?

" Further, my Lord, it is not yet out of living memory that at a little distance from Knaresborough, in a field, part of the manor of the worthy and patriot baronet who does that borough the honour to represent it in Parliament, were found, in digging for gravel, not one human skeleton only, but five or six, deposited side by side, with each an urn placed at its head, as your Lordship knows was usual in ancient interments.

" About the same time, and in another field, almost close to this borough, was discovered also, in searching for gravel, another human skeleton ; but the piety of the same worthy gentleman ordered both pits to be filled up again, commendably unwilling to disturb the dead.

" Is the invention of these bones forgotten, then, or industriously concealed, that the discovery of those in question may appear the more singular and extraordinary ?

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whereas, in fact, there is nothing extraordinary in it. My Lord, almost every place conceals such remains. In fields, in hills, in highway sides, in commons, lie frequent and unsuspected bones ; and our present allotments for rest for the departed are but of some centuries.

“ Another particular seems not to claim a little of your Lordship’s notice, and that of the gentlemen of the jury ; which is, that perhaps no example occurs of more than one skeleton being found in one cell : and in the cell in question was found but one ; agreeable, in this, to the peculiarity of every other known cell in Britain. Not the invention of one skeleton, but of two, would have appeared suspicious and uncommon. But it seems another skeleton has been discovered by some labourer, which was full as confidently averred to be Clarke’s as this. My Lord, must some of the living, if it promotes some interest, be made answerable for all the bones that earth has concealed and chance exposed ? And might not a place where bones lay be mentioned by a person by chance as well as found by a labourer by chance ? Or is it more criminal accidentally to name where bones lie than accidentally to find where they lie ?

“ Here, too, is a human skull produced, which is fractured ; but was this the cause, or was it the consequence, of death ? was it owing to violence, or was it the effect of natural decay ? If it was violence, was that violence before or after death ? My Lord, in May, 1732, the remains of William, Lord Archbishop of this province, were taken up, by permission, in this cathedral, and the bones of the skull were found broken ; yet certainly he died by no violence offered to him alive that could occasion that fracture there.

“ Let it be considered, my Lord, that, upon the dissolution of religious houses and the commencement of the Reformation, the ravages of those times affected both the living and the dead. In search after imaginary treasures, coffins were broken up, graves and vaults dug open, monuments ransacked and shrines demolished ; and it ceased about the beginning of the reign of Queen Elizabeth. I entreat

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your Lordship, suffer not the violence, the depredations and the iniquities of those times to be imputed to this.

"Moreover, what gentleman here is ignorant that Knaresborough had a castle, which, though now a ruin, was once considerable both for its strength and garrison. All know it was vigorously besieged by the arms of the Parliament; at which siege, in sallies, conflicts, flights, pursuits, many fell in all the places round it, and, where they fell, were buried, for every place, my Lord, is burial-earth in war; and many, questionless, of these rest yet unknown, whose bones futurity shall discover.

"I hope, with all imaginable submission, that what has been said will not be thought impertinent to this indictment, and that it will be far from the wisdom, the learning and the integrity of this place to impute to the living what zeal in its fury may have done—what nature may have taken off, and piety interred—or what war alone may have destroyed, alone deposited.

"As to the circumstances that have been raked together, I have nothing to observe but that all circumstances whatever are precarious, and have been but too frequently found lamentably fallible; even the strongest have failed. They may rise to the utmost degree of probability, yet they are but probability still. Why need I name to your Lordship the two Harrisons recorded by Dr Howel, who both suffered upon circumstances because of the sudden disappearance of their lodger, who was in credit, had contracted debts, borrowed money, and went off unseen, and returned a great many years after their execution? Why name the intricate affair of Jacques de Moulin, under King Charles II., related by a gentleman who was counsel for the Crown? And why the unhappy Coleman, who suffered innocently, though convicted upon positive evidence, and whose children perished for want, because the world uncharitably believed the father guilty? Why mention the perjury of Smith, incautiously admitted King's evidence, who, to screen himself, equally accused Faircloth and Loveday of the murder of Dun; the first of whom, in 1749, was executed

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at Winchester ; and Loveday was about to suffer at Reading, had not Smith been proved perjured, to the satisfaction of the Court, by the Governor of Gosport Hospital?

“ Now, my Lord, having endeavoured to show that the whole of this process is altogether repugnant to every part of my life ; that it is inconsistent with my condition of health about that time ; that no rational inference can be drawn that a person is dead who suddenly disappears ; that hermitages are the constant depositories of the bones of a recluse ; that the proofs of this are well authenticated ; that the revolutions in religion or the fortunes of war have mangled or buried the dead—the conclusion remains, perhaps, no less reasonable than impatiently wished for. I, at last, after a year’s confinement, equal to either fortune, put myself upon the justice, the candour and the humanity of your Lordship ; and upon yours, my countrymen, gentlemen of the jury.”

The delivery of this address created a very considerable impression in court ; but the learned judge having calmly and with great perspicuity summed up the evidence which had been produced, and having observed upon the prisoner’s defence, which he declared to be one of the most ingenious pieces of reasoning that had ever fallen under his notice, the jury, with little hesitation, returned a verdict of guilty. Sentence of death was then passed upon the prisoner, who received the intimation of his fate with becoming resignation. After his conviction he confessed the justice of his sentence to two clergymen who were directed to attend him—a sufficient proof of the fruitlessness of the efforts to prove him innocent which the morbid sentimentality of late writers has induced them to attempt. Upon an inquiry being made of him as to his reason for committing the crime, he declared that he had reason to suspect Clarke of having had unlawful intercourse with his wife ; and that at the time of his committing the murder he had thought that he was acting rightly, but that he had since thought that his crime could not be justified or excused. In the hopes of avoiding the ignominious death which he was

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doomed to suffer, on the night before his execution he attempted to commit suicide by cutting his arm in two places with a razor, which he had concealed for that purpose. This attempt was not discovered until the morning, when the jailer came to lead him forth to the place of execution, and he was then found almost expiring from loss of blood. A surgeon was immediately sent for, who found that he had wounded himself severely on the left arm, above the elbow and near the wrist, but he had missed the artery, and his life was prolonged only in order that it might be taken away on the scaffold. When he was placed on the drop he was perfectly sensible, but was too weak to be able to join in devotion with the clergyman who attended him.

He was executed at York, on the 16th of August, 1759, and his body was afterwards hung in chains in Knaresborough Forest.

The following papers were afterwards found in his handwriting on the table in his cell. The first contained reasons for his attempt upon his life, and was as follows: "What am I better than my fathers? To die is natural and necessary. Perfectly sensible of this, I fear no more to die than I did to be born. But the manner of it is something which should, in my opinion, be decent and manly. I think I have regarded both these points. Certainly no man has a better right to dispose of a man's life than himself; and he, not others, should determine how. As for any indignities offered to my body, or silly reflections on my faith and morals, they are, as they always were, things indifferent to me. I think, though contrary to the common way of thinking, I wrong no man by this, and hope it is not offensive to that eternal Being that formed me and the world: and as by this I injure no man, no man can be reasonably offended. I solicitously recommend myself to that eternal and almighty Being, the God of Nature, if I have done amiss. But perhaps I have not; and I hope this thing will never be imputed to me. Though I am now stained by malevolence and suffer by prejudice, I hope to rise fair and unblemished. My life was not polluted, my morals irreproachable, and

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my opinions orthodox. I slept sound till three o'clock, awoke, and then wrote these lines :

“ Come, pleasing rest ! eternal slumbers, fall !
Seal mine, that once must seal the eyes of all.
Calm and composed my soul her journey takes ;
No guilt that troubles, and no heart that aches.
Adieu, thou sun ! all bright, like her, arise !
Adieu, fair friends, and all that's good and wise ! ”

The second was in the form of a letter, addressed to a former companion, and was in the following terms :—

MY DEAR FRIEND,—Before this reaches you I shall be no more a living man in this world, though at present in perfect bodily health ; but who can describe the horrors of mind which I suffer at this instant ? Guilt—the guilt of blood shed without any provocation, without any cause but that of filthy lucre—pierces my conscience with wounds that give the most poignant pains ! 'Tis true the consciousness of my horrid guilt has given me frequent interruptions in the midst of my business or pleasures, but yet I have found means to stifle its clamours, and contrived a momentary remedy for the disturbance it gave me by applying to the bottle or the bowl, or diversions, or company, or business ; sometimes one and sometimes the other, as opportunity offered. But now all these and all other amusements are at an end, and I am left forlorn, helpless and destitute of every comfort ; for I have nothing now in view but the certain destruction both of my soul and body. My conscience will now no longer suffer itself to be hoodwinked or browbeat ; it has now got the mastery : it is my accuser, judge and executioner, and the sentence it pronounceth against me is more dreadful than that I heard from the Bench, which only condemned my body to the pains of death, which are soon over. But Conscience tells me plainly that she will summon me before another tribunal, where I shall have neither power nor means to stifle the evidence she will there bring against me ; and that the sentence

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which will then be denounced will not only be irreversible, but will condemn my soul to torments that will know no end.

Oh! had I but hearkened to the advice which dear-bought experience has enabled me to give, I should not now have been plunged into that dreadful gulf of despair which I find it impossible to extricate myself from; and therefore my soul is filled with horror inconceivable. I see both God and man my enemies, and in a few hours shall be exposed a public spectacle for the world to gaze at. Can you conceive any condition more horrible than mine? Oh, no, it cannot be! I am determined, therefore, to put a short end to trouble I am no longer able to bear, and prevent the executioner by doing his business with my own hand, and shall by this means at least prevent the shame and disgrace of a public exposure, and leave the care of my soul in the hands of eternal mercy. Wishing you all health, happiness and prosperity, I am, to the last moment of my life, yours, with the sincerest regard,

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JOHN AYLIFFE, Esq.

Commissary of Musters in the War Office. Executed at Tyburn, 7th of November, 1759, for Forgery

THE father of John Ayliffe lived several years as an upper servant with Gerrard Smith, Esq., a gentleman of large fortune near Tockenham, in Wiltshire. After young Ayliffe had been instructed in the first rudiments of learning he was sent to the celebrated academy at Harrow-on-the-Hill, where he became very proficient in Latin and Greek.

On his quitting the academy he acted in the capacity of usher to a boarding school at Lineham, in Wiltshire, where, unknown to her parents, he married the daughter of a clergyman, who had a fortune of five hundred pounds. On receipt of this money he became so extravagant that he spent the whole in the course of two years, when, being in circumstances of distress, a widow lady, named Horner, took him into her service as house steward.

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In a short time he was appointed land steward to another lady, who recommended him as a man of abilities to the Honourable Mr Fox (afterwards Lord Holland), who gave him the place of one of the commissaries of musters in the War Office, by which he acquired the right of adding the title of "Esquire" to his name.

The profits of Ayliffe's new office were so considerable that he was induced to purchase an elegant house in Dorsetshire, which he furnished in a style far too expensive for his rank of life. In other instances he gave proofs of a strange extravagance of disposition, for he ran into debt to a number of people, though his income was sufficient to have satisfied the wishes of any reasonable man.

At length, when his creditors became urgent, he had recourse, for a present supply, to some irregular and very dangerous practices; amongst others, he forged a presentation to the valuable rectory of Brinkworth, in Wiltshire, which he sold to a young clergyman for a considerable sum. This living being in Mr Fox's gift, he forged his handwriting and that of two subscribing witnesses, with admirable dexterity; but, soon after Ayliffe's affairs became desperate, a discovery was made of this infamous fraud. The effect was that the clergyman took to his bed, and literally died in consequence of that oppression of spirits which is commonly called a broken heart; for the purchase of the presentation had ruined his circumstances. After his death the following short note was found in his drawer, directed to John Ayliffe SATAN, Esq. :—

SIR,—I am surprised you can write to me, after you have robbed and most barbarously murdered me. O Brinkworth !

Ayliffe, being arrested for debts to the amount of eleven hundred pounds, took refuge in the Fleet Prison.

Mr Fox being upon a visit to his brother, Lord Ilchester, Mr Calcraft called at Holland House, according to his usual custom, to inquire, before he wrote to his patron, whether there were any letters for him, or any other business to inform him of. One day, as he called, he found Fanning

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(whom Mr Fox had now made his steward) in conversation with a man who had the appearance of a farmer. Just as Mr Calcraft entered he heard Fanning say : " I'm sure 'tis not my master's hand ; but here comes a gentleman who can inform you better than I can." Saying this, he delivered into Mr Calcraft's hand a lease. When Mr Calcraft had looked over it he declared that the signature was not Mr Fox's. " Nor," continued he, " can there be such a lease really existing, for the late Mrs Horner discharged Ayliffe from her service upon account of his having married a person whom she did not approve of. And it is not to be supposed she would grant him a lease for the life of himself, his son, and that very wife for the imprudent choice of whom she had dismissed him." The farmer no sooner heard this than he exclaimed : " Then I am undone ; the villain has robbed me of what I had saved for my daughter's portion." Upon a further investigation of the affair, Mr Calcraft found that the lease given to the farmer had been forged, purposely to raise money upon. Mr Fox had made this Ayliffe a riding commissary. The income arising from this employment was alone more than sufficient to support such a family as his ; but he had, in addition to it, adopted the profession of buying estates. As he was supposed to be a good judge of the value of land, Mr Calcraft had empowered him to purchase estates for him in Dorsetshire ; and Ayliffe had already received the sum of eleven thousand pounds from him for that purpose, else, in all probability, he would have continued his depredations for some time longer.

Mr Calcraft no sooner discovered, by this accident, what Ayliffe had been doing, than he set out in pursuit of him. He found him at Salisbury, where, under pretext of the forgery, he had him taken, by proper persons, into custody. This had the desired effect. In the first emotions of his terror he refunded the whole of the eleven thousand pounds. Mr Calcraft had him then immediately secured by Justice Fielding's men, who had come in pursuit of him, in consequence of an application from the farmer. They clapped a pair of handcuffs on him and brought him to town, when

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he was committed. An express was sent to Mr Fox, who still continued at Lord Ilchester's, to inform him of the transaction; and the first knowledge that that gentleman had of it was after Ayliffe stood committed for trial.

Mr Fox was unjustly censured upon this occasion, as indeed he was upon many others, where his commissaries had all the emoluments and he all the odium. The unhappy man, solicitous for his life, wrote to Mr Fox, who was then in town, and greatly shocked at the affair. In his letter he requested that gentleman's forgiveness, and, acknowledging himself the most ungrateful of men, promised, if he would but save him from his merited sentence, his whole life should be employed in endeavouring to deserve the mercy, and to atone for the enormities he had been guilty of. But in the very same hour he wrote to Mr Pitt, who was then Minister, to inform him that, if he would rescue him from his approaching fate, he would discover such iniquitous practices of his late employer as should fully repay the saving him. Mr Pitt, with a liberality of sentiment which does honour to his memory, sent the wretch's letter immediately to Mr Fox. That gentleman received it as he was preparing to go to court on purpose to solicit the prisoner's pardon; but this discovery of his baseness now rendered it impossible, as such an application would have carried with it a declaration of his being in the villain's power, and that he was apprehensive of his putting his threats into execution. No intercession was of course made for him, and he suffered the due reward of his crime.

Ayliffe seems to have been much unprepared for death, possibly flattering himself with the hopes of a pardon. He was in the utmost agonies during the greater part of the night previous to his execution, but slept about two hours towards the approach of morning. His agitation of mind brought on a fever, producing an intolerable thirst, which he endeavoured to allay by drinking large and repeated draughts of water. After execution his body was put into a hearse and conveyed into Hertfordshire, for interment, agreeable to his own request.

WILLIAM ANDREW HORNE, Esq.

*Executed at Nottingham, 11th of December, 1759, in the
Seventy-fifth Year of his Age, for Murder, concealed
Twenty-five Years*

WILLIAM ANDREW HORNE'S father was an accomplished scholar. In vain he endeavoured to impart knowledge to his son, who attended alone to his pleasures. Instead of sending him where he would have been taught some manners, the too-indulgent parent permitted him to take his own course; allowed him horses and hounds, on which so many have galloped to destruction; and, in fine, he became a bumpkin squire. He seduced several girls, two of whom were servants to his mother, and one was the daughter of a farmer, which latter died in consequence of her grief. By one woman he had two natural daughters, one of whom lived to the age of fifteen years, and the other was living in 1759, and might have been reputably married, but that the avaricious father refused to give her a shilling as a fortune.

He had likewise criminal connection with his own sister; which leads us to speak of the crime for which he suffered. This sister being delivered of a boy, in February, 1724, Horne told his brother Charles, three days afterwards, and at ten o'clock at night, that he must take a ride with him. He then put the new-born infant in a bag and, mounting their horses, they rode to Annesley, in Nottinghamshire, at the distance of five computed miles, carrying the child alternately. On their arrival near the village William dismounted, and inquired if the child was living, and being answered in the affirmative he took it, and told his brother to wait till he came back. On his return, Charles demanded to know how he had disposed of the infant; to which he said that he had placed it behind a haystack, and covered it with hay.

On the following morning the child was found dead, through severity of the weather.

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In a short time after the transaction a quarrel happened between the brothers, in consequence of which Charles communicated the affair to his father, who enjoined him to the strictest secrecy; which was observed till the death of the old gentleman, who departed this life, aged one hundred and two years, in the year 1747.

William having always behaved with great severity to his brother Charles, and the latter (soon after the death of the father) having some business to transact with Mr Cooke, an attorney at Derby, told him of the long-concealed affair, and asked his advice. The lawyer told him to go to a Justice of the Peace and make a full discovery of the whole transaction.

Thereupon Charles went to a magistrate and acquainted him with what had happened; but he hesitated to take cognisance of it—said it might hang half the family, and, as it had happened so many years ago, advised that it might remain a secret.

In consequence thereof no further notice was taken of it till the year 1754, when Charles Horne, being seized with a violent fit of illness, called in the assistance of one Mr White, of Ripley, and, presuming that he should live but a short time, said he could not die in peace without disclosing his mind. When Mr White had heard the tale he declined giving any advice, saying it was not proper for him to interfere in the affair.

Charles recovered his health in a surprising manner; and Mr White, who saw him again a few days after, expressing his astonishment at so speedy a recovery, the other said he had been better ever since he had disclosed his mind to him.

A considerable time after this, William Horne had a quarrel with a Mr Roe, at a public-house, concerning the right of killing game; when Roe called Horne an "incestuous old dog." Thereupon Horne prosecuted him in the Ecclesiastical Court at Lichfield, where Roe was cast, and obliged to pay all expenses. This circumstance inflamed Roe with revenge, and, having learned that Charles Horne had mentioned something of his brother having caused his

WILLIAM ANDREW HORNE

natural child to be starved to death, he made such inquiry of Charles as determined him how to act.

Thereupon he went to a magistrate in Derbyshire and obtained a warrant, but took Charles's word for his appearance on the following day. William, hearing that such warrant was granted, and being apprehensive that his brother might be admitted evidence, sent for him and told him that he would be his friend if he would deny all that he had said. This the other refused; but told him that if he would give him five pounds he would go immediately to Liverpool, and quit the kingdom: but William's excessive avarice prevented his complying with this moderate request.

Charles being examined by some magistrates in Derbyshire, they declined interfering in the business. On which a Justice of the Peace in Nottinghamshire was applied to, who issued a warrant for taking William Andrew Horne, Esq., into custody; and this warrant was backed by Sir John Every, a magistrate of Derbyshire.

A constable from Annesley went with Mr Roe and some other assistants to Mr Horne's house. They now diligently searched the house, but could not find the party they wanted, and would probably have desisted, but that Roe insisted on making another search, during which they observed a large old chest, and Mrs Horne, on being asked what it contained, said it was full of sheets and table linen. Roe declared he would look into it, and was on the point of breaking it open when Mrs Horne unlocked it, and her husband suddenly started up, saying: "It is a sad thing to hang me; for my brother Charles is as bad as myself, and he cannot hang me without hanging himself."

Thereupon he was taken into custody, and, being carried before two Justices of the Peace in Nottinghamshire, they committed him to take his trial at the following assizes.

He had not been long in confinement when he applied to the Court of King's Bench for a writ of habeas corpus, which being granted, he was brought to London, and his counsel argued that he ought to be admitted to bail; but

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the judges were of a different opinion, and he was remanded to the jail of Nottingham.

On the 10th of August, 1759, he was brought to trial before Lord Chief Baron Parker, and, after a hearing of about nine hours, the jury found him guilty, and sentence of death was passed. On the day appointed for his execution he had just completed his seventy-fourth year.

MUNGO CAMPBELL

*A Gentleman, who was convicted of killing the Earl of
Eglinton, and to avoid an Ignominious Death
hanged himself, 28th of February, 1760*

THE unhappy subject of this narrative was protected by an uncle, who gave him a learned education; but this generous friend died when the youth was about eighteen years of age, leaving him sixty pounds, and earnestly recommending him to the care of his other relations.

The young man was a finished scholar, yet seemed averse to making the choice of any of the learned professions. His attachment appeared to be to the military life, in which line many of his ancestors had most gloriously distinguished themselves.

Mr Campbell entered as a cadet in the royal regiment of Scots Greys, then commanded by his relation, General Campbell, and served during two campaigns at his own expense, in the fond hope of military preferment.

After the battle of Dettingen, at which he assisted, he had an opportunity of being appointed quartermaster if he could have raised one hundred pounds, but this place was bestowed on another person while Campbell was making fruitless application for the money.

Thus disappointed of what he thought a reasonable expectation, he quitted the army and went into Scotland, where he arrived at the juncture when the rebels had quitted Edinburgh, in 1745, Lord Loudoun having then the command of loyal Highlanders, who exerted so much bravery

MUNGO CAMPBELL

in the suppression of the Rebellion; and Mr Campbell, having the honour to be related to his lordship, went and fought under him with a bravery that did equal credit to his loyalty and courage.

Not long after the decisive battle of Culloden, Lord Loudoun procured his kinsman to be appointed an officer of the excise; and prevailed on the commissioners to station him in the shire of Ayr, that he might have the happiness of residing near his friends and relations.

In the discharge of his new duty Mr Campbell behaved with strict integrity to the Crown, yet with so much civility as to conciliate the affections of all those with whom he had any transactions. He married when he was somewhat advanced in life; and so unexceptionable was his whole conduct that all the nobility and gentry in the neighbourhood (the Earl of Eglinton excepted) gave him permission to kill game on their estates. However, he was very moderate in the use of this indulgence, seldom shooting but with a view to gratify a friend with a present; hardly ever for his own emolument.

Mr Campbell had a singular attachment to fishing; and, a river in Lord Eglinton's estate affording the finest fish in that country, he would willingly have angled there, but his lordship being as strict with regard to his fish as his game, Campbell, unwilling to offend him, gave away his fishing-tackle, which was excellent in its kind. He was likewise in possession of a fine pointer, which he sold; but would not part with his gun, which produced him the greatest pleasure of his life.

Campbell, being in search of smugglers, and having his gun with him, was crossing part of Lord Eglinton's estate when a hare started up, and he shot her. His lordship hearing the report of the gun, and being informed that Campbell had fired it, sent a servant to command him to come to the seat. Campbell obeyed the disagreeable summons, but was treated very cavalierly by his lordship, who even descended to call him by names of contempt. The other apologised for his conduct, which he said arose from the

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sudden starting of the hare, and declared that he had no design of giving offence. This might have been a sufficient apology to any other man than Lord Eglinton.

A man named Bartleymore was among the servants of Lord Eglinton, and was a favourite of his lordship, and this man dealt largely in contraband goods. Mr Campbell, passing along the seashore, met Bartleymore with a cart containing eighty gallons of rum, which he seized as contraband ; and the rum was condemned, but the cart was restored, being the property of Lord Eglinton.

In this affair it will appear evident that Mr Campbell did not exceed his duty ; but Bartleymore was so incensed against him that he contrived many tales to his disadvantage, and at length engaged his lordship's passions so far that he conceived a more unfavourable opinion of Campbell than he had hitherto done.

About ten in the morning of the 24th of October, 1769, Campbell took his gun and went out with another officer, with a view to detecting smugglers. Mr Campbell took with him a licence for shooting, which had been given him by Dr Hunter, though he had no particular design of killing any game, but intended to shoot a woodcock if he should see one.

They crossed a small part of Lord Eglinton's estate, in order to reach the seashore, where they intended to walk. When they arrived at this spot it was near noon, and Lord Eglinton came up in his coach, attended by Mr Wilson, a carpenter, and followed by four servants on horseback. On approaching the coast his lordship met Bartleymore, who told him there were some poachers at a distance, and that Campbell was among them. Lord Eglinton quitted his coach and, mounting a led horse, rode to the spot, where he saw Campbell and the other officer, whose name was Brown. His lordship said : " Mr Campbell, I did not expect to have found you so soon again on my grounds, after your promise when you shot the hare." He then demanded Campbell's gun, which the latter declared he would not part with.

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Lord Eglinton now rode towards him, while Campbell retreated, with his gun presented, desiring him to keep at a distance. Still, however, his lordship advanced, smiling, and said : " Are you going to shoot me ? " Campbell replied : " I will, if you do not keep off." Hereupon Lord Eglinton called to his servants to bring him a gun, which one of them took from the coach, and delivered to another to carry to their master.

In the interim Lord Eglinton, leading his horse, approached Mr Campbell and demanded his gun, but the latter would not deliver it. The peer then quitted his horse's bridle and continued advancing, while Campbell still retired, though in an irregular direction, and pointed his gun towards his pursuer.

At length Lord Eglinton came so near him that Campbell said : " I beg your pardon, my lord, but I will not deliver my gun to any man living ; therefore keep off, or I will certainly shoot you." At this instant Bartleymore, advancing, begged Campbell to deliver his gun to Lord Eglinton ; but the latter answered he would not, for he " had a right to carry a gun."

His lordship did not dispute his *general* right, but said that he could not have *any* to carry it on his estate without his permission. Campbell again begged pardon, and still continued retreating, but with his gun in his hand, and preparing to fire in his own defence. While he was thus walking backwards his heel struck against a stone and he fell, when he was about the distance of three yards from the pursuer. Lord Eglinton observed him fall on his back, and stepped forward, as if he would have passed by Campbell's feet. The latter, observing this, reared himself on his elbow, and lodged the contents of his piece in the left side of his lordship's body.

A contest now ensued, during which Bartleymore repeatedly struck Campbell. Being observed by Lord Eglinton, he called out : " Do not use him ill." Campbell, being secured, was conducted to the wounded man, then lying on the ground, who said : " Mr Campbell, I would not

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have shot you." But Campbell made no answer. His hands were tied behind him, and he was conducted to the town of Saltcoats, the place of his former station as an exciseman.

Lord Eglinton dying, after languishing ten hours, Mr Campbell was, on the following day, committed to the prison of Ayr, and the next month removed to Edinburgh, in preparation for his trial before the High Court of Justiciary. The trial commenced on the 27th of February, 1770, and the jury having found Mr Campbell guilty he was sentenced to die.

On his return to prison he was visited by several of his friends, among whom he behaved with apparently decent cheerfulness; and, retiring to his apartment, he begged the favour of a visit from them on the following day. But in the morning he was found dead, hanging to the end of a form which he had set upright, with a silk handkerchief round his neck.

The following lines were found upon the floor, close to the body :—

“ Farewell, vain world, I’ve had enough of thee,
And now am careless what thou say’st of me,
Thy smiles I court not, nor thy frowns I fear,
My cares are past, my heart lies easy here,
What faults they find in me take care to shun,
And look at home, enough is to be done.”

ROBERT TILLING

*Executed at Tyburn, 28th of April, 1760, for robbing
his Master*

MR LLOYD was an eminent merchant, and lived in Devonshire Square, Bishopsgate Street, London. He kept his carriage, and hired Tilling as his coachman.

On the 19th of February, 1760, at four o’clock in the morning, Mr Lloyd was disturbed from sleep by a noise in his house; and he presently saw a man at his bedside, with a lantern and a pistol in his hands. He presented the

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latter to Mr Lloyd's head, and demanded the keys of his escritoire, threatening him with instant death if he refused. Having received them, he told the owner that, in case of his calling out, or even moving, he had left a guard who would dispatch him. This was the confederate villain, the coachman, who kept himself in the background, that his master should not know him.

This singular robber then went downstairs and opened the money drawer, which contained a considerable sum. With this he returned to Mr Lloyd and said: "You see, sir, I have only taken the money out of your escritoire; your plate, watch, or anything else I have not meddled with; and as to the little cash in your pocket, I scorn to meddle with it." The thieves then made their escape.

Suspicious circumstances being against Tilling, he was apprehended, and brought before the Lord Mayor, who committed him for a second examination.

Upon being again brought up, he confessed to his lordship the robbery above described; and further, that he had robbed Mr Hayward and two other gentlemen, but denied a mail robbery, of which he was also suspected.

He was brought to trial at the next sessions at the Old Bailey, convicted, and received sentence of death.

LAURENCE, EARL FERRERS

Executed at Tyburn, 5th of May, 1760, for the Murder of his Steward, after a Trial before his Peers

LAURENCE, EARL FERRERS, was descended of an ancient and noble family. The royal blood of the Plantagenets flowed in his veins, and the Earl gained his title in the following manner. The second baronet of the family, Sir Henry Shirley, married a daughter of the celebrated Earl of Essex, who was beheaded in the reign of Queen Elizabeth; and his son, Sir Robert Shirley, died in the Tower, where he was confined during the Protectorate, for his attachment to the cause of the Stuarts. Upon the Restoration, the second son of Sir Robert

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succeeded to the title and estates, and Charles, anxious to cement the bonds which attached his friends to him, summoned him to the Upper House of Parliament by the title of Lord Ferrers of Chartley, as the descendant of one of the co-heiresses of the Earl of Essex; the title, which had existed since the reign of Edward III., having been in abeyance since the death of that unfortunate nobleman. In the year 1711, Robert, Lord Ferrers, was created, by Queen Anne, Viscount Tamworth and Earl Ferrers; and it appears that although the estates of the family were very great, they were vastly diminished by the provisions which the Earl thought proper to make for his numerous progeny, consisting of fifteen sons and twelve daughters, born to him by his two wives. At the death of the first Earl his title descended to his second son; but he dying without issue it went in succession to the ninth son, who was childless, and the tenth son, who was the father of the Earl, Laurence, the subject of the present sketch.

This nobleman was married in the year 1752 to the youngest daughter of Sir William Meredith; but although his general conduct, when sober, was not such as to be remarkable, yet his faculties were so much impaired by drink that, when under the influence of intoxication, he acted with all the wildness and brutality of a madman. For a time his wife perceived nothing which induced her to repent the step she had taken in being united to him, but he subsequently behaved to her with such unwarrantable cruelty that she was compelled to quit his protection, and, rejoining her father's family, to apply to Parliament for redress. An Act was in consequence passed, allowing her a separate maintenance, to be raised out of her husband's estate; and, trustees being appointed, the unfortunate Mr Johnson, who fell a sacrifice to the ungovernable passion of Lord Ferrers—having been bred up in the family from his youth, and being distinguished for the regular manner in which he kept his accounts, and his fidelity as a steward—was proposed as receiver of the rents for her use. He at first declined the office; but subsequently, at the desire of the Earl himself,

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consented to act, and continued in this employment for a considerable time.

His lordship at this time lived at Stanton, a seat about two miles from Ashby-de-la-Zouch, in Leicestershire; and his family consisted of Mrs Clifford, a lady who lived with him, and her four natural daughters, besides five men-servants, exclusive of an old man and a boy, and three maids.

Mr Johnson lived at the house belonging to the farm, which he held under his lordship, called the Lount, about half-a-mile distant from Stanton. It appears that it was his custom to visit his noble master occasionally, to settle the accounts which were placed under his care; but his lordship gradually conceived a dislike for him, grounded upon the prejudice raised in his mind on account of his being the receiver of the Countess's portion, and charged him with having combined with the trustees to prevent his receiving a coal contract. From this time he spoke of him in opprobrious terms, and said he had conspired with his enemies to injure him, and that he was a villain; and with these sentiments he gave him warning to quit an advantageous farm which he held under his lordship. Finding, however, that the trustees under the Act of separation had already granted him a lease of it, it having been promised to him by the Earl or his relations, he was disappointed, and probably from that time he meditated a more cruel revenge.

On Sunday, the 13th of January, 1760, Earl Ferrers went to the Lount, and, after some discourse with Mr Johnson, ordered him to come to him at Stanton on the Friday following, the 18th, at three o'clock in the afternoon. His lordship's usual dinner-hour was two o'clock; and soon after that meal was disposed of, on the Friday, he went to Mrs Clifford, who was in the still-house, and desired her to take the children for a walk. She accordingly prepared herself and her daughters, and, with the permission of the Earl, went to her father's, at a short distance, being directed to return at half-past five. The men-servants were next dispatched on errands by their master, who was thus left in the house with the three females only. In a short time afterwards

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Mr Johnson came, according to his appointment, and was admitted by one of the maid-servants, named Elizabeth Burgeland. He proceeded at once to his lordship's apartment, but was desired to wait in the still-house ; and then, after the expiration of about ten minutes, the Earl, calling him into his own room, went in with him and locked the door. Being thus together, the Earl required him first to settle an account, and then, charging him with the villainy which he attributed to him, ordered him to kneel down. The unfortunate man went down on one knee ; upon which the Earl, in a tone of voice loud enough to be heard by the maid-servants without, cried : " Down on your other knee ! Declare that you have acted against Lord Ferrers. Your time is come—you must die." Then suddenly drawing a pistol from his pocket, which was loaded, he presented it and immediately fired. The ball entered the body of the unfortunate man, but he rose up, and entreated that no further violence might be done him ; and the female servants at that time coming to the door, being alarmed by the report, his lordship quitted the room. A messenger was immediately dispatched for Mr Kirkland, a surgeon, who lived at Ashby-de-la-Zouch ; and Johnson being put to bed, his lordship went to him and asked him how he felt. He answered that he was dying, and desired that his family might be sent for. Miss Johnson soon after arrived, and Lord Ferrers immediately followed her into the room where her father lay. He then pulled down the clothes and applied a pledget, dipped in arquebusade water, to the wound, and soon after left him.

From this time it appears that his lordship applied himself to his favourite amusement—drinking—until he became exceedingly violent (for at the time of the commission of the murder he is reported to have been sober), and on the arrival of Mr Kirkland he told him that he had shot Johnson, but believed he was more frightened than hurt ; that he had intended to shoot him dead, for that he was a villain, and deserved to die ; " but," said he, " now that I have spared his life, I desire you would do what you can for him." His lordship at the same time desired that he would not suffer

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him to be seized, and declared that if anyone should attempt it he would shoot him. Mr Kirkland told him that he should not be seized, and directly went to the wounded man. He found the ball had lodged in the body ; at which his lordship expressed great surprise, declaring that he had tried that pistol a few days before and that it then carried a ball through a deal board nearly an inch and a half thick. Mr Kirkland then went downstairs to prepare some dressings, and my lord soon after left the room. From this time, in proportion as the liquor which he continued to drink took effect, his passions became more tumultuous, and the transient fit of compassion, mixed with fear for himself, which had excited him, gave way to starts of rage and the predominance of malice. He went up into the room where Johnson was dying and pulled him by the wig, calling him a villain, and threatening to shoot him through the head ; and the last time he went to him he was with great difficulty prevented from tearing the clothes off the bed, that he might strike him.

A proposal was made to him in the evening by Mrs Clifford that Mr Johnson should be removed to his own house ; but he replied : “ He shall not be removed ; I will keep him here, to plague the villain.” He afterwards spoke to Miss Johnson about her father, and told her that if he died he would take care of her and of the family, provided they did not prosecute.

When his lordship went to bed, which was between eleven and twelve, he told Mr Kirkland that he knew he could, if he would, set the affair in such a light as to prevent his being seized, desiring that he might see him before he went away in the morning, and declaring that he would rise at any hour.

Mr Kirkland, however, was very solicitous to get Mr Johnson removed, and, as soon as the Earl had gone, he set about carrying his object into effect. He in consequence went to Lount and, having fitted up an easy-chair with poles, by way of a sedan, and procured a guard, returned at about two o'clock and carried Mr Johnson to his house,

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where he expired at about nine o'clock on the following morning.

The neighbours now began to take measures to secure the murderer, and a few of them, having armed themselves, set out for Stanton ; and as they entered the yard they saw his lordship, partly undressed, going towards the stable, as if to take out a horse. One of them, named Springthorpe, then advancing towards his lordship with a pistol in his hand, required him to surrender ; but the latter putting his hand towards his pocket, his assailant, imagining that he was feeling for some weapon of offence, stopped short, and allowed him to escape into the house. A great concourse of people by this time had come to the spot, and they cried out loudly that the Earl should come forth. Two hours elapsed, however, before anything was seen of him, and then he came to the garret window and called out : " How is Johnson ? " He was answered that he was dead. But he said it was a lie, and desired that the people should disperse ; and then he gave orders that they should be let in and furnished with victuals and drink, and finally he went away from the window, swearing that no man should take him. The mob still remained on the spot, and in about two hours the Earl was descried by a collier, named Curtis, walking on the bowling-green, armed with a blunderbuss, a brace of pistols and a dagger. Curtis, however, so far from being intimidated by his bold appearance, walked up to him ; and his lordship, struck with the resolution he displayed, immediately surrendered himself, and gave up his arms, but directly afterwards declared that he had killed the villain, and gloried in the act. He was instantly conveyed in custody to a public-house at Ashby, kept by a man named Kinsey ; and a coroner's jury having brought in a verdict of wilful murder against him, he was on the following Monday committed to the custody of the keeper of the jail at Leicester.

Being entitled, however, by his rank to be tried before his peers, he was, about a fortnight afterwards, conveyed to London, in his landau, drawn by six horses, under a strong guard ; and, being carried before the House of Lords, he

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was committed to the custody of the Black Rod, and ordered to the Tower, where he arrived at about six o'clock on the evening of the 14th of February. He is reported to have behaved, during the whole journey and at his commitment, with great calmness and propriety. He was confined in the Round Tower, near the drawbridge: two wardens were constantly in the room with him, and one at the door; two sentinels were posted at the bottom of the stairs, and one upon the drawbridge, with their bayonets fixed; and from this time the gates were ordered to be shut an hour sooner than usual.

During his confinement he was moderate both in eating and drinking: his breakfast was a half-pint basin of tea, with a small spoonful of brandy in it, and a muffin; with his dinner he generally drank a pint of wine and a pint of water, and another pint of each with his supper. In general his behaviour was decent and quiet, except that he would sometimes suddenly start, tear open his waistcoat, and use other gestures, which showed that his mind was disturbed.

Mrs Clifford and the four young ladies, who had come up with him from Leicestershire, took a lodging in Tower Street, and for some time a servant was continually passing with letters between them; but afterwards this correspondence was permitted only once a day.

Mrs Clifford came three times to the Tower to see him, but was not admitted; but his children were suffered to be with him some time.

On the 16th of April, having been a prisoner in the Tower two months and two days, he was brought to his trial, which continued till the 18th, before the House of Lords, assembled for that purpose, Lord Henley, Keeper of the Great Seal, having been created Lord High Steward upon the occasion.

The murder was easily proved to have been committed; and his lordship then proceeded to enter upon his defence. He called several witnesses, the object of whose testimony was to show that the Earl was not of sound mind, but none of them proved such an insanity as made him not accountable for his conduct. His lordship managed his defence himself

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in such a manner as showed an uncommon understanding : he mentioned the fact of his being reduced to the necessity of attempting to prove himself a lunatic, that he might not be deemed a murderer, with the most delicate and affecting sensibility ; and, when he found that his plea could not avail him, he confessed that he made it only to gratify his friends ; that he was always averse to it himself ; and that it had prevented what he had proposed, and what perhaps might have taken off the malignity at least of the accusation.

The Peers having in the usual form delivered their verdict, of guilty, his lordship received sentence to be hanged on Monday, the 21st of April, and then to be anatomised ; but, in consideration of his rank, the execution of this sentence was respite till Monday, the 5th of May.

During this interval he made a will, by which he left one thousand, three hundred pounds to Mr Johnson's children, one thousand pounds to each of his four natural daughters, and sixty pounds a year to Mrs Clifford for her life ; but this disposition of his property, being made after his conviction, was not valid, although it was said that the same, or nearly the same, provision was afterwards made for the parties named.

In the meantime a scaffold was erected under the gallows at Tyburn, and part of it, about a yard square, was raised about eighteen inches above the rest of the floor, with a contrivance to sink down upon a signal given, in accordance with the plan then invariably adopted ; the whole being covered with black baize.

On the morning of the 5th of May, at about nine o'clock, his lordship's body was demanded of the keeper of the Tower, by the sheriffs of London and Middlesex, and his lordship, being informed of it, sent a message to the sheriffs, requesting that he might be permitted to be conveyed to the scaffold in his own landau, in preference to the mourning-coach which was provided for him. This being granted, his landau, drawn by six horses, immediately drew up, and he entered it, accompanied by Mr Humphries, the Chaplain of the Tower, who had been admitted to him that morning

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for the first time. On the carriage reaching the outer gate, the Earl was delivered up to the sheriffs, and Mr Sheriff Vaillant entered the vehicle with him, expressing his concern at having so melancholy a duty to perform ; but his lordship said he "was much obliged to him, and took it kindly that he accompanied him." The Earl was attired in a white suit, richly embroidered with silver ; and when he put it on he said : "This is the suit in which I was married, and in which I will die." The procession, being now formed, moved forward slowly, the landau being preceded by a considerable body of Horse Grenadiers, and by a carriage containing Mr Sheriff Errington, and his under-sheriff, Mr Jackson, and being followed by the carriage of Mr Sheriff Vaillant, containing Mr Nichols, his under-sheriff, a mourning-coach-and-six, containing some of his lordship's friends, a hearse-and-six for the conveyance of his body to Surgeons' Hall after execution, and another body of military. The pace at which they proceeded, in consequence of the density of the mob, was so slow that his lordship was two hours and three-quarters in his landau, but during that time he appeared perfectly easy and composed, though he often expressed his anxiety to have the whole affair over, saying that the apparatus of death and the passing through such crowds were worse than death itself, and that he supposed so large a mob had been collected because the people had never seen a lord hanged before. He told the sheriff that he had written to the King to beg that he might suffer where his ancestor, the Earl of Essex, had been executed, and that he had had greater hopes of obtaining that favour as he had the honour of quartering part of the same arms, and of being allied to his Majesty ; but that he had refused, and he thought it hard that he must die at the place appointed for the execution of common felons.

When his lordship had arrived at that part of Holborn which is near Drury Lane he said he was "thirsty, and should be glad of a glass of wine-and-water" ; upon which the sheriffs, remonstrating with him, said that a stop for that purpose would necessarily draw a greater crowd about him,

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which might possibly disturb and incommode him, yet, if his lordship still desired it, it should be done. He most readily answered : “ That’s true—I say no more—let us by no means stop.”

When the landau advanced to the place of execution his lordship alighted from it, and ascended the scaffold with the same composure and fortitude of mind he had exhibited from the time he left the Tower. Soon after he had mounted the scaffold, Mr Humphries asked his lordship if he chose to say prayers, which he declined ; but upon his asking him if he did not choose to join with him in the Lord’s Prayer he readily answered he would, for he always thought it a very fine prayer. Upon which they knelt down together upon two cushions covered with black baize, and his lordship, with an audible voice, very devoutly repeated the Lord’s Prayer, and afterwards, with great energy, ejaculated : “ Oh, God, forgive me all my errors—pardon all my sins ! ”

His lordship, then rising, took his leave of the sheriff and the chaplain ; and, after thanking them for their many civilities, presented his watch to Mr Sheriff Vaillant, of which he desired his acceptance, and requested that his body might be buried at Breden or Stanton, in Leicestershire.

The executioner now proceeded to do his duty, to which his lordship, with great resignation, submitted. His neck-cloth being taken off, and a white cap, which he had brought in his pocket, being put upon his head, his arms secured by a black sash, and the cord put round his neck, he advanced by three steps to the elevated part of the scaffold, and, standing under the cross-beam which went over it, which was also covered with black baize, he asked the executioner : “ Am I right ? ” Then the cap was drawn over his face, and, upon a signal given by the sheriff (for his lordship, upon being before asked, declined to give one himself), that part upon which he stood instantly sank down from beneath his feet, and he was launched into eternity, the 5th of May, 1760.

The accustomed time of one hour being past, the coffin was raised up, with the greatest decency, to receive the body ; and, being deposited in the hearse, was conveyed

FRANCIS DAVID STIRN

by the sheriffs, with the same procession, to Surgeons' Hall, to undergo the remainder of the sentence. A large incision was then made from the neck to the bottom of the breast, and another across the throat; the lower part of the belly was laid open and the bowels taken away. It was afterwards publicly exposed to view in a room up one pair of stairs at the Hall; and on the evening of Thursday, the 8th of May, it was delivered to his friends for interment.

The following verse is said to have been found in his apartment :—

“ In doubt I lived, in doubt I die,
Yet stand prepared the vast abyss to try,
And, undismay'd, expect eternity.”

FRANCIS DAVID STIRN

*Convicted of Murder, but poisoned himself in Newgate,
12th of September, 1760, after a Hunger Strike*

FRANCIS DAVID STIRN was by birth a German. A man of erudition, he was born in the principality of Hesse-Cassel, about the year 1735. His father was a minister, and his brother a metropolitan minister at Hersfeld.

Francis was sent to a public grammar school in Hesse-Cassel, where he made considerable progress, and was then removed to a college at Bremen.

He was later taken home by his brother, who soon after placed him at the University of Hintelin, belonging to Hesse, where he pursued his studies from the year 1756 till the middle of the year 1758. During this time he improved his knowledge in the Latin and Greek classics to an uncommon degree; he also acquired very considerable skill in Hebrew, and became greatly proficient in both vocal and instrumental music, dancing, fencing and other polite accomplishments.

About this time, the French having made an irruption into Hesse, and impoverished the inhabitants by raising

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exorbitant contributions, his brother was no longer able to support him, and therefore sent him to England, with very strong recommendations, to a friend, who received him kindly, and promised to procure him an appointment that should be agreeable to his friends; but as no opportunity immediately presented itself, he offered himself as an assistant to Mr Crawford, who kept a school in Cross Street, Hatton Garden, and was received, upon the recommendation of the Rev. Mr Planta, who had himself lived with Mr Crawford in that station, and left him upon his having obtained a place in the Museum. It was also proposed that he should assist the German minister at the Chapel in the Savoy, where he preached several probationary discourses; but as he made use of notes he was not approved by his auditory.

While he lived with Mr Crawford he became acquainted with Mr Matthews, a surgeon in the neighbourhood, who advertised the cure of fistulas, and other disorders of the like kind, and who made him a proposal to come and live with him, offering him an apartment ready furnished, and his board, upon condition that he should teach Mrs Matthews and her daughter music, and Matthews himself the classics. Stirn accepted Matthews's proposal, and took possession of his apartment at his house. A very little time, however, was sufficient to show that they could not long continue together. Stirn's pride and his situation in life concurred to render him so jealous of indignity, and so ingenious in discovering oblique reproach and insult in the behaviour of those about him, that, finding one evening, after he came home, some pieces of bread in the dining-room, which had been left there by a child of the family, he immediately took it into his head that they were left there as reproachful emblems of his poverty, which obliged him to subsist on the fragments of charity. This thought set him on fire in a moment, and he ran furiously upstairs and, knocking loudly and suddenly at Mr Matthews's chamber door, called out: "Mr Matthews!" He was answered by Mrs Matthews, who was in bed, that Mr Matthews was

FRANCIS DAVID STIRN

not there. But he still clamorously insisted on the door being opened, so that Mrs Matthews was obliged to rise, and, having put on her clothes, she came out and asked him what he wanted and what he meant by such behaviour. He answered that he wanted Mr Matthews, and that he knew he was in the room. It happened that at this instant Mr Matthews knocked at the street door, and this put an end to the dispute with his wife. The moment Mr Matthews entered the house, Stirn, in a furious manner, charged him with an intention to affront him by the crusts. Mr Matthews assured him that he meant no such thing, and that the bread was carried thither by the child. Mrs Matthews also confirmed it, and Stirn was at length pacified. He seems to have been conscious of the strange impropriety of his conduct as soon as he had time for reflection; for the next morning he went to Mr Crawford and expressed a most grateful sense of Mr and Mrs Matthews's patience and kindness in suffering, and passing over, his fantastic behaviour.

It is, however, probable that from this time they began to live together upon very ill terms. Matthews soon after gave him warning to quit his house, and Stirn refused to go. Eventually he went to the Pewter Platter, in Cross Street, Hatton Garden, where Matthews and other persons in the neighbourhood frequently met to spend the evening. Stirn, after some time, applying himself to Mr Matthews, said: "Sir, you have accused me of theft and adultery." Matthews denied the charge, and after some mutual reproaches called him a dirty fellow, and said he ought to be sent into his own lousy country. Stirn, after this, took two or three turns about the room, and then, drawing out two pistols, discharged one of them at Matthews's breast, who gave a sudden start and then, falling forward, died instantly, without a groan. Stirn, almost at the same moment, discharged the other at himself; but, by some accident, the ball missed him, without doing any other damage. As soon as the smoke was dissipated, and the company had recovered from their first astonishment and

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confusion, Stirn was seen standing, as it were, torpid with amazement and horror. As soon as he saw the attention of all that were in the room turned upon him he seemed to recollect himself, and made towards the door ; but a person in the room, named Warford, seized him, and after some struggle pulled him to the ground. Another man, named Lowther, immediately went up to him, and Stirn cried out : " Shoot me ! shoot me ! shoot me ! for I shall be hanged." Somebody then saying, " Matthews is dead," Stirn replied, " I am not sorry, but I am sorry that I did not shoot myself."

After his commitment he obstinately refused all kinds of food, with the view of starving himself, that he might avoid the infamy of a public death by the hands of the executioner. He persisted in this abstinence till the Friday following, the 22nd of August, being just a week, drinking only a dish or two of coffee and a little wine. This conduct he endeavoured to justify, by saying that his life was forfeited by the law of both God and man, and that it was not lawful even for the Government to pardon him ; " and what does it signify," says he, " by whose hands this forfeit is paid ?" The ordinary indeed told him, in answer to this argument, that his life was not in his own power, and that as he did not, and could not, give it to himself, so neither had he a right to take it away. He was, however, urged to eat, for he was told that he would incur more infamy by suicide than by hanging, as his body would be dragged like that of a brute to a hole dug to receive it in a cross-road, and a stake would be afterwards driven through it, which would remain as a monument of disgrace.

During his trial, which lasted about four hours, he was often ready to faint ; he was therefore indulged with a seat, and several refreshments. When sentence was passed upon him he quite fainted away, but being recovered by the application of spirits he requested the Court that he might be permitted to go to the place of execution in the coach with the clergyman ; upon which the Court told him that was in the sheriff's breast, but that such a favour, if granted, would be contrary to the intention of the law which had

PATRICK M'CARTY

lately been made to distinguish murders by exemplary punishment. Upon that he made a profound reverence to the Court, and was taken back to prison.

About six o'clock, the same evening, he was visited by the ordinary, who found in the press-yard a German, who said he was a minister, whom Stirn had desired might attend him. The ordinary therefore took him up to Stirn's chamber, he having been removed from the cells by the assistance of some friends. They found him lying on his bed; and as he expressed great uneasiness at the presence of the ordinary and a prisoner who had been set over him as a guard, they withdrew and left him alone with his countryman. Soon after this an alarm was given that Stirn was extremely ill, and was supposed to have taken poison. He was immediately visited by the sheriff and Mr Akerman, the keeper of the prison, who found him in a state of stupefaction, but not yet convulsed. A surgeon was procured, and several methods were tried to discharge his stomach of the poison, but without effect; he was then let blood, which apparently rendered him worse.

About nine o'clock he was pale and speechless; his jaw had fallen, and his eyes were fixed; and about five minutes before eleven he expired.

PATRICK M'CARTY

*Executed at the bottom of Bow Street, Covent Garden,
Westminster, 24th of October, 1760, for Murder*

HAD this malefactor's execution been deferred but one single day, he might, in all probability, have survived many years, as the day after, early in the morning, King George II. died, and the succeeding monarch, in order that all might with joy hail his accession, according to ancient custom granted a general amnesty and pardon to criminals.

A Marshalsea writ having been issued against M'Carty, an officer of that court, of the name of William Talbot, was employed to execute the warrant granted thereon. He

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met the defendant near Drury Lane, and told him that he had a warrant against him, to which M'Carty asked : " At whose suit ? " Being informed, he requested the officer to step with him into the King's Head public-house, at the corner of Prince's Street. They had not been many minutes in the house when, without any harsh words having passed between them, M'Carty suddenly drew from his pocket a large knife, stabbed the officer to the heart, and then ran off. He was, however, pursued, and taken by a soldier in Vere Street, Clare Market, and carried before Sir John Fielding, who committed him to Newgate.

At the next sessions he was convicted of this wanton murder, and executed at the time and place above mentioned.

THEODORE GARDELLE

An Artist, who was executed in the Haymarket, 4th of April, 1761, for murdering a Woman

THEODORE GARDELLE was a foreigner, and a man of education and talents in his profession, the fine art of painting. He was born at Geneva, a city which is famed for giving birth to great men, in both the arts and sciences. He chose the miniature style of painting, and, having acquired its first rudiments, went to Paris, where he gained great proficiency in the art. He then returned to his native place and practised his profession for some years, with credit and emolument ; but, it appears, unhappy in his domestic concerns, he repaired to London, and took lodgings at Mrs King's, in Leicester Fields, in the year 1760.

Some time afterwards, for the benefit of purer air, he removed to Knightsbridge, but finding that place too far from his business he returned to his former residence, where he pursued his business until the fatal cause arose which brought him to an ignominious death.

On Thursday, the 19th of February, 1761, in the morning, the maid got up about seven o'clock and opened the

THEODORE GARDELLE

fore parlour windows. There was a fore parlour and a back parlour; both had a door into the passage from the street door, and there was also a door out of one into the other: the back parlour was Mrs King's bedchamber, and the door which entered it from the passage was secured on the inside by a drop-bolt, and could not be opened on the outside when locked, though the drop-bolt was not down, because on the outside there was no keyhole. The door into the fore parlour was also secured on the inside by Mrs King when she went to bed, and the door of the fore parlour into the passage was left open. When the maid had entered the fore parlour by this door and opened the windows she went to the passage door of the back parlour, where Mrs King was in bed, and knocked, in order to get the key of the street door, which Mrs King took at night into her room. Mrs King drew up the bolt and the maid went in. She took the key of the street door, which she saw lying upon the table by a looking-glass, and her mistress then shut the passage door and dropped the bolt, and ordered the maid to open the door that communicated with the fore parlour, which she did, and went out. She then kindled the fire in the fore parlour, that it might be ready when her mistress arose, and about eight o'clock went up into Gardelle's room, where she found him in a red-and-green nightgown, at work. He gave her two letters, a snuff-box and a guinea, and desired her to deliver the letters, one of which was directed to one Mozier, in the Haymarket, and the other to a person who kept a snuff-shop at the next door, and to bring him from thence a pennyworth of snuff.

The girl took the messages, and went again to her mistress, telling her what Gardelle had desired her to do; to which her mistress replied: "Nanny, you can't go, for there is nobody to answer the street door." The girl being willing to oblige Gardelle, or being for some reason desirous to go out, answered that Mr Gardelle would come down and sit in the parlour till she came back. She then went again to Gardelle and told him what objection her mistress had made, and what she had said to remove

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it. Gardelle then said he would come down, as she had proposed, and he did come down accordingly.

The girl immediately went on his errand, and left him in the parlour, shutting the street door after her, and taking the key to let herself in when she came back.

Immediately after the girl had gone out, Mrs King, hearing the tread of somebody in the parlour, called out, "Who is there?" and at the same time opened her chamber door. Gardelle was at a table, very near the door, having just then taken up a book that lay upon it, which happened to be a French grammar. He had some time before drawn Mrs King's picture, which she wanted to have made very handsome, and had teased him so much about it that the effect was just contrary.

It happened, unfortunately, that the first thing she said to him, when she saw it was he whom she had heard walking about in the room, was something reproachful about this picture. Gardelle was provoked at the insult, and, as he spoke English very imperfectly, he, for want of a less improper expression, told her, with some warmth, that she was an impertinent woman. This threw her into a transport of rage, and she gave him a violent blow with her fist on the breast—so violent, that he said he would not have thought such a blow could have been given by a woman. As soon as the blow was struck she drew a little back, and at the same instant he laid his hand on her shoulder and pushed her from him, rather in contempt than anger, or with a design to hurt her; but her foot happening to catch in the floor-cloth she fell backwards, and her head came with great force against the corner of the bedstead. The blood immediately gushed from her mouth, not in a continued stream, but as if by different strokes of a pump. He instantly ran to her and stooped to raise her, expressing his concern at the accident; but she pushed him away, and threatened, though in a feeble and interrupted voice, to punish him for what he had done.

He was exceedingly terrified at the thought of being condemned for a criminal act upon her accusation, and

THEODORE GARDELLE

again attempted to assist her, by raising her up, as the blood still gushed from her mouth in great quantities; but she still exerted all her strength to keep him off, and still cried out, mixing threats with her screams. He then seized an ivory comb with a sharp taper point continued from the back, for adjusting the curls of her hair, which lay upon her toilet, and threatened her in his turn to prevent her crying out; but she still continuing to cry out, though with a voice still fainter and fainter, he struck her with this instrument, probably in the throat, upon which the blood flowed from her mouth in yet greater quantities, and her voice was quite stopped. He then drew the bedclothes over her, to prevent her blood from spreading on the floor, and to hide her from his sight. He stood some time motionless by her, and then fell down by her side in a swoon. When he came to himself he perceived the maid had come in. He therefore went out of the room without examining the body to see if the unhappy wretch was quite dead, and his confusion was then so great that he staggered against the wainscot and hit his head, so that a bump was raised over his eye.

By means of a ruse Gardelle got rid of the maid, by saying that her mistress had discharged her. She left the house, and the murder was not discovered until the following Saturday week, when a constable and some others went to the house, where they found Gardelle, and charged him with the murder. He denied it, but soon after dropped down in a swoon. When he recovered, they demanded the key of Mrs King's chamber; but he said she had taken it with her to the country. The constable therefore got in at the window and opened the door that communicated with the parlour, and they all went in. They found that there had been a fire in the garret, and some fragments of bones, half consumed, were found in the chimney. To this force of evidence Gardelle at length gave way, and confessed the fact. He was sent to New Prison, where he attempted to destroy himself by swallowing some opium, which he had kept several years by him as a remedy for the toothache.

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When he found that the opium did not produce the effect he desired, he swallowed halfpence to the number of twelve.

On the 2nd of March he was brought to Newgate, and diligently watched, to prevent any further attempts upon his life. On Thursday, the 2nd of April, he was tried at the Old Bailey; and, in his defence, he insisted only that he had no malice to the deceased, and that her death was the consequence of the fall. He was convicted, and sentenced to be executed on Saturday, the 4th.

He was executed, amidst the shouts and hisses of an indignant populace, in the Haymarket, near Panton Street, to which he was led past Mrs King's house, where the cart made a stop, and at which he just gave a look. His body was hung in chains upon Hounslow Heath.

PETER PATTISON

*Executed at Newcastle-upon-Tyne, 5th of October, 1761,
for being concerned in a Riot at Hexham*

THE King having, by proclamation, ordered the militia of England to be embodied, and the deputy-lieutenants for the county of Northumberland having advertised that on the 9th of March, 1761, they should meet at the town of Hexham, to ballot for militiamen, a most dreadful riot ensued.

A vast body of colliers, called pitmen, from Newcastle, rose, and, in a tumultuous manner, proceeded to Hexham. There they set up a loud cry of "No Militia Laws!" and attacked a detachment of the North York Militia, with clubs, stones, and such other weapons as they could collect.

This enraged the soldiers to such a pitch that they fired upon the mob for the space of ten minutes, and forty-two were killed and forty-eight wounded. Of the militia, an ensign and two privates were killed, and several wounded.

Above a score of the ringleaders of this dangerous insurrection were secured, but we find accounts of the execution of only one of them, Peter Pattison.

JOHN PERROTT

*A Bankrupt, who refused to make Full Disclosures of
his Effects, and was executed in Smithfield,
11th of November, 1761*

JOHN PERROTT was born at Newport Pagnell, in Buckinghamshire, about sixty miles north of London, in the year 1723, being about thirty-eight years of age at his death. His father died when he was seven years old, and his mother about two years afterwards, leaving him a fortune of about fifteen hundred pounds. After the death of his parents he was, by the direction of a guardian, placed in the Foundation School of Gilsborough, in Northamptonshire, where he continued five years. He was then, being about fifteen years old, put apprentice to his half-brother at Hampstead, in Hertfordshire, where he served out his time.

In the year 1747 he came up to London, and began to trade for himself in foreign white lace, but kept no shop. In the beginning of the year 1749 he took a house, and opened a warehouse in Blowbladder Street. About the year 1752 he removed from Blowbladder Street to Ludgate Hill, where he opened a linendraper's shop, and dealt in various other articles, styling himself "merchant." From the time of his opening this shop till the year 1759 he returned annually about two thousand pounds, and was remarkably punctual in his payments.

Having thus established his reputation, and finding that no credit which he should ask would be refused him, he formed a scheme of abusing this confidence, which he began to put into execution by contracting for goods, of different sorts, to the value of thirty thousand pounds, the greater part of which, amounting to the value of twenty-five thousand pounds, he actually got into his possession. In pursuance of his project it was necessary to convert these goods into ready money as soon as possible; he therefore employed one Henry Thompson (who had for three or four years acted as his agent, or broker) to sell them for ready money.

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Thompson, at this time, kept a little house in Monkwell Street, near Wood Street, whither the goods were sent in the dusk of the evening, and whither he invited some of the principal traders to look at them, as goods consigned to him from the places where they were manufactured. Perrott always set a price upon them, which Thompson showed to his chapmen, who usually fixed another price at which they would buy; at this price Thompson was always ordered to sell, though it was frequently fifteen or twenty per cent. below prime cost.

When he had thus converted the goods he obtained upon credit into money, and before the time when he was to pay for them arrived, he summoned his creditors together, who accordingly met, on the 17th of January, 1760, at the Half Moon tavern, in Cheapside, where he acquainted them that he was unable to pay the whole of what he owed, referring himself entirely to their pleasure, and promising to acquiesce in all such measures as they should propose, to pursue their own benefit and security.

This conduct and these professions had so plausible an appearance that Perrott's creditors conceived a favourable opinion of him, notwithstanding the loss they were likely to suffer. It was however determined that a commission of bankruptcy should be sued out against him, and Perrott having agreed to cause himself to be denied the next day to a person whom his creditors were to send to demand money, as the common and most ready foundation of commissions of bankruptcy, such a commission was issued against him on the 19th of January, the second day after meeting, and Perrott, being found and declared a bankrupt, surrendered himself as such.

The 26th of the same month, the 4th of February and the 4th of March were appointed for his appearance before the Commissioners, to make a full disclosure of his estate and effects.

But two of Perrott's creditors found, upon an inspection of his accounts and affairs, such a deficiency and confusion as gave them just reason to suspect his integrity. He was

JOHN PERROTT

accordingly summoned before the Commissioners on the 26th of February, and then, being hard pressed, he acknowledged that he had bought goods, since the year 1758, to the amount of twenty thousand pounds, and sold them himself, or by Thompson, for ready money, at fifteen or twenty per cent. under prime cost ; and that, about five years before, he hired a house in Hide Street, near Bloomsbury Square, at thirty pounds per annum rent, and furnished it at the expense of about a hundred and thirty pounds ; that it was for a lady, and that he lived in it for about a year and a half and then quitted it, and sold the furniture. And he swore also that he had not since that time any other house or lodging, or paid for the lodging of any other person.

An examination which produced such proof of the bankrupt's misconduct greatly increased the suspicions of his creditors that more knavery was intended ; and it appeared that, though he had kept regular books from 1752 to 1757, yet at the end of that time they were in some confusion, and afterwards in total disorder. Neither were any traces to be discovered of accounts between him and Thompson, notwithstanding the very large transactions between them : which was another reasonable cause to suspect fraudulent designs.

On the 19th of April, 1760, Perrott appeared before the Commissioners, and exhibited, upon oath, an account of his effects, which, after giving him credit for all the money he had paid, and making him debtor for all the goods he had sold, from his first entering into trade to his bankruptcy, left a deficiency of no less than thirteen thousand, five hundred and thirteen pounds. He was therefore required to declare upon oath what had become of that sum, to which he replied that had he lost two thousand pounds on goods which he had sold in the last year ; and one thousand pounds and upwards by mournings ; and that for nine or ten years, he was sorry to say, he had been extremely extravagant, and spent large sums of money.

As Perrott, during this examination, had also sworn that he never gamed, and as the vast sum unaccounted for came

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into his hands only in the last year, it appeared scarcely possible that it should, in that one year, be dissipated by any species of extravagance ; if not dissipated, it was concealed, and Perrott therefore was the same night committed to Newgate, for “ not having given satisfactory answers on his examination.”

In Newgate he was constantly visited by Mrs Ferne, a friend, who was always elegantly dressed, and who came in a chariot or post-chaise, attended by a servant in livery or a maid-servant, or both. They used frequently to dress a chop themselves, and Perrott condescended to clean his own knives ; yet his folly and improvidence were so great that at this very time he indulged himself and madam with green peas at five shillings a quart.

After he had continued in Newgate six weeks he gave notice to the Commissioners that he would give a more satisfactory account of the deficiency in his estate, and being therefore brought before them on the 5th of June, 1760, he gave in, upon oath, the following account :—

Fitting up my warehouse in Blowbladder Street, and furnishing the same	£100
Rent and boy's wages during my stay there	100
Travelling expenses during the same	100
My own diet during that time	125
Clothes, hats, wigs and other wearing necessities	200
Fitting up my house on Ludgate Hill	100
Furnishing the same	200
Housekeeping, during my stay there, with rent, taxes, and servants' wages	2,700
Clothes, hats, wigs, shoes and other wearing apparel during my stay there	720
Travelling expenses during my stay on Ludgate Hill	360
Horses, and keeping them, saddles, bridles and farrier's bill, during my residence on Ludgate Hill and Blowbladder Street	575
Carry forward	<u>£5,280</u>

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	Brought forward	£5,280
Tavern expenses, coffee-house expenses, and places of diversion during the above time	. . .	920
Expenses attending the connection I had with the fair sex	5,500
Paid Mr Thompson for selling goods by commission	300
Forgave him a debt in consideration of his trouble and time in getting bills accepted, etc.	30
Lost by goods and mourning	3,000
Total	. . .	<u>£15,030</u>

To this account he added the most solemn asseveration upon oath that he had not concealed any part of his estate and effects whatsoever.

With this account the Commissioners were equally dissatisfied, so they sent him back to Newgate; and some time after he petitioned the Lord Keeper to be discharged. But his Lordship, upon hearing the last deposition which Perrott thought fit to annex to his petition read, thought it so infamous that he would not order any attendance upon it.

As the creditors had now no doubt of the concealment of a great part of Perrott's estate, a reward of forty per cent. was offered by advertisements, often repeated, for the discovery of any part of such estate. It happened that Mr Hewit, one of Perrott's assignees, walking one morning upon the terrace in Lincoln's Inn Gardens, observed a woman leaning over the wall, who had something so disconsolate and forlorn in her appearance that he could not resist his curiosity to speak to her. Upon inquiring what was the cause of her present apparent distress, she told him that she had been turned out of her service by one Mrs Ferne, and knew not where to go. The name of Ferne immediately rendered his curiosity interested in a high degree, and he sent her to Mr Cobb, who was clerk under Perrott's commission, to get her examined.

The examination of this woman, whose name was Mary Harris, was taken before Justice Fielding, on the 23rd of

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June, 1761, and, in consequence of this information, Ferne's apartments, which were very expensively furnished, were searched, by virtue of Fielding's warrant, and, at the same time, Perrott's room in Newgate, by virtue of a warrant from the Commissioners.

In Ferne's possession were found the halves of four bank-notes, amounting in all to one hundred and eighty-five pounds, and the corresponding halves were found at the bottom of Perrott's trunk, hidden, sewed up very carefully in a piece of rag, together with the signed moiety of another bank-note for one thousand pounds.

Upon this discovery, Ferne was carried before the justice, and examined concerning the bank-notes, when she insisted they were her own property, and received from gentlemen, as a gratuity, for favours; but these very notes were, by the indefatigable diligence of those concerned, traced back into money paid to Thompson for goods which he sold on Perrott's account.

After some subsequent examinations of Mrs Ferne, and of one Martin Matthias, and one Pye Donkin, who acted as attorneys for Perrott—which examinations all tended to prove that Perrott had deposited notes to a great value in Ferne's hands, and to expose the shameless perjury of Ferne—all proceedings were suspended till the trial in September, 1761, when, it being proved that the notes found in the possession of Ferne and Perrott were the produce of Perrott's estate, he was convicted, and received sentence of death.

From the time of his having been charged with a capital offence he was put into irons; yet he seemed healthy and cheerful. He was often urged to make a full disclosure of his effects, but obstinately refused, saying he was to die: that was atonement sufficient for the wrongs he had committed.

He was, in consequence of his own request, visited the day before his death by his assignees, to whom, however, he refused to answer particular questions relating to his estate, giving as a reason that he had received the Sacrament. This reason for answering no questions seems to prove that he had secretly determined not to disclose his estate

ROBERT GREENSTREET

by answering truly ; because, in this case, he avoided the crime of falsehood by being silent, though otherwise his answer would have coincided with every part of Christian duty, and his having received the Sacrament would rather have been a reason for his answering them than not.

On the morning of his execution he confessed the justice of his sentence. He expressed great solicitude about what should become of his body, desiring it might be buried in the church of the place where he was born. To this he added another request, which was much more rational : he desired that the time might be enlarged in the chapel and shortened at the place of execution. He was in chapel therefore from eight to three-quarters after nine ; the next half-hour was employed in knocking off his irons ; about ten minutes more were spent in taking leave of his fellow-convict, one Lee, who was condemned for forgery ; and about a quarter after ten he appeared, pale and trembling, at the door of the press-yard, and was immediately put into the cart. He was executed in Smithfield.

ROBERT GREENSTREET

*Executed at Tyburn, 14th of December, 1761, for the
Murder of his Master, from whom he demanded
an Increase of Wages*

THIS man served his apprenticeship with a Mr Souch, a fishhook-maker, in Crooked Lane, London, by whom he had been so kindly treated that after the expiration of his time he continued to work with him as a journeyman.

Greenstreet seems to have been of a discontented mind, for he was often urging an increase of wages, more than that humble trade would allow. One day, having again introduced the subject to his old and kind master, now bending under the weight of many years, it led to a dispute, in which the young villain felled the poor old man to the ground, and there inhumanly repeated his blows. While thus prostrate the master faintly exclaimed : “ Bob, you are a rogue to use

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me thus"; upon which the villain took a knife from his pocket and, deliberately opening it, stabbed him in several parts of his body, at every word calling out: "D—n your old soul!" This bloody work was carried on before the youth who had succeeded Greenstreet as apprentice, and who, in endeavouring to save his master, received a stab through his hand. The murderer was secured, and a surgeon sent for, who found the old man speechless, senseless, and bleeding to death. In a few minutes he expired.

On his trial at the Old Bailey, Greenstreet pleaded guilty, and received sentence of death. He was executed along with Daniel Looney, for shooting Captain Shanks. The body of Greenstreet was given to the surgeons for dissection, and when brought into the Hall for that purpose the eyes opened, though the body was dead.

JOHN M'NAUGHTON, Esq.

*Who was twice executed in Ireland, 15th of December, 1761,
for the Murder of Miss Knox, whom he pretended
to marry*

JOHN M'NAUGHTON, Esq., was the son of a merchant at Derry, whose father had been an alderman of Dublin. To an outward form which was perfectly engaging he added the most genteel demeanour, so as to promise the very reverse of what was the real disposition of his soul, which was subject to every blast of passion.

He was educated in Trinity College, Dublin. When of age he entered into a landed estate of six hundred pounds a year, in the county of Tyrone, which was left him by Dr M'Naughton, his uncle.

The first vice he fell into was gaming, by which he very soon did great injury to his fortune; and though he continued (as most novices do who play with sharpers) in a constant run of ill-luck, and was soon obliged to mortgage, yet his losses made no visible alteration in his temper. His pride kept him within due bounds there. All was placid

JOHN M'NAUGHTON

with the polite M'Naughton, and he lost his money to the very last with that graceful composure that became the man who had a plentiful fortune to support it. But strong as his passion this way might be, it was not strong enough to secure him against the attacks of love, and falling a victim to the charms of a young lady he very speedily married her.

His very agreeable person and soft polite address assured his success with the ladies; but, as his character was generally known, the young lady's friends took all possible care to secure her effects, and the lover was too eager to gratify his passion, and too rash in his temper, to trouble himself about the disposition of fortune.

The unavoidable expenses of a wife and servants in Dublin (as he pursued his old course of gaming) soon increased his difficulties. A sheriff's writ was taken out against Mr M'Naughton for some large debt; and as he suspected the danger he kept himself as secure at home as possible, by which means the bailiffs could get no admittance. The creditor, or some other persons concerned, hearing this, had influence enough with the High Sheriff to prevail on him to go to Mr M'Naughton's house and take him prisoner.

As the sheriff went in a chair, and appeared like a gentleman, the servants admitted him, and showed him into a parlour, where their master was alone. The sheriff then told him he was his prisoner. On this M'Naughton flew into a rage, and, calling out for pistols, he frightened his poor listening wife to such a degree that (being near her time) she fell in labour, and died in childbed.

The High Sheriff was greatly blamed for this seeming officious behaviour; but this dreadful consequence threw Mr M'Naughton into such distraction that he made several attempts upon his life, and was obliged to be attended and watched for some months after. On his return from the country, after eighteen months' absence, he appeared greatly altered—like a wretch worn out with grief—so very susceptible was that frail man of the excess of every passion. But this fatal accident, which nearly cost him his life, was attended with one good consequence: it immediately cut

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off all expense ; and that long retirement into the country was of some service to his troubled fortunes, and gave him an opportunity, on his return to Dublin, to appear there like himself, in some degree of splendour. There he renewed his old and, no doubt, contracted new friendships, and kept most faithfully to his favourite vice, gaming, which he pursued with great spirit.

He then made his addresses secretly to Miss Knox, daughter of Richard Knox, Esq., of Prohen, in the county of Derry, a gentleman possessed of an estate of about fifteen hundred pounds per annum ; and as by the marriage settlement five thousand pounds had been settled on the younger children, Miss Knox, having only one brother and no sister, was entitled to the whole of five thousand pounds, even though she disobliged her parents by marriage. We must add to this bait the beauty, sweetness of temper and other accomplishments of the young lady, which were remarkable. She was then about fifteen.

Mr M'Naughton, who was an intimate friend of her father, and a constant visitor, soon obtained a promise from the young lady to marry him if he could get her father's consent. But Mr Knox not only absolutely refused his consent, and gave his reasons for it, but showed his resentment by forbidding him his house.

Mr M'Naughton then begged Mr Knox would permit him to visit as formerly (as he said it would look strange to the world to be forbidden to visit a family all the neighbours knew he had been so intimate with), and solemnly promised, upon his honour, never more to think of or mention this affair ; and added, that as he had not spoken of it to the young lady, Mr Knox need never do it, and so the affair would drop of itself. Thus were the father's eyes and ears once more sealed up by this artful man, who continued his addresses to the daughter, and told her Mr Knox had promised him his consent ; but desired, however, that no further mention might be made of the affair for a year or two, till some material business was decided, which he would acquaint him with. Thus he deceived the young

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lady, who now more freely gave way to his passion, and again promised she would marry him as soon as that consent was obtained. Thus he remained some time, constantly watching his opportunity to complete his design.

One day, being in company with Miss Knox and a young gentleman (a very boy) in a retired room in the house, he pressed her to marry him, protesting he never could be happy till he was sure of her ; and, with an air of sprightly raillery, pulling out a Prayer Book, he began to read the marriage service, and insisted on the young lady's making the responses, which she did, but to every one she always added, " provided my father consents."

A short time after this, Miss Knox going to a friend's house on a week's visit, Mr M'Naughton, being also an intimate there, soon followed her. Here he fixed his scene for action ; here he claimed her, and, calling her his wife, insisted on consummation, which the young lady absolutely refused. She left the house, and went directly and informed her uncle of the whole affair. On this, Mr Knox wrote a letter to M'Naughton, telling him what a base, dishonourable villain he was, and bade him avoid his sight for ever. Upon the receipt of this letter M'Naughton advertised his marriage in the public newspapers, cautioning every other man not to marry his lawful wife. This was answered by a very spirited and proper advertisement from the father, with an affidavit of the whole affair from the daughter annexed.

Mr Knox then brought an action against him in the Prerogative Court to set aside this pretended marriage, which was found to be only a contract ; for the breach of which the party can only be sued at common law, and condemned to pay costs and damages. Besides, it is probable that the young lady being under age rendered this contract void in itself. At this time Mr M'Naughton had absconded from his debts, and therefore could not appeal to the Court of Delegates, where the former decree was confirmed. In consequence of this decree, Judge Scott issued his warrant to apprehend him. When M'Naughton heard this, he wrote a most impudent, threatening letter to the judge, and, it is

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said, lay in wait to have him murdered, when he was last at the assizes there, but missed him, by the judge's taking another road. Upon this the judge applied to the Lord Chief Justice, who issued out another writ against him, that drove him to England.

Mr M'Naughton returned to Ireland in the summer of 1761, and by constantly hovering round Mr Knox's house obliged the family to be on their guard, and the young lady to live like a recluse. However, about the middle of the summer, she ventured to a place called Swaddling Bar, to drink the mineral waters there for her health: thither this unhappy man followed her, and was seen sometimes in a beggar's habit, sometimes in a sailor's. Thus disguised he was detected, and then swore in the presence of several that he would murder the whole family if he did not get possession of his wife; and yet so infatuated were they as to suffer him to get away once more to England, where he was supposed to be by Mr Knox at the time this fatal event happened. He remained in London till the month of October, and gamed, cheated, and borrowed money from all his acquaintances, and imposed on many by forged letters and false tokens from their friends.

About the 1st of November he was seen skulking in the country of Ireland, and two nights prior to the murder was known to sleep with three of his accomplices at the house of one Mr —, a hearth-money collector. The morning of the 10th, the day the fact was committed, they all came with a sackful of fire-arms to a little cabin on the roadside, where Mr Knox was to pass in his coach-and-six. From this cabin M'Naughton detached one of them to go to an old woman who lived at some distance on the roadside, under pretence of buying some yarn of her, but really to wait the coming up of Mr Knox's coach, and inquire whose it was. When it appeared in sight he asked that question, and was answered that it was Mr Knox, who, with his family, was going to Dublin. He then made her point to show him how they sat, which she did: Mr Knox, his wife, his daughter and maid-servant. As soon as he had got this

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information he ran off to inform M'Naughton that the coach was coming, and to make ready ; that he had looked into the coach, and that Mr Knox was attended by only one servant and a faithful fellow, a smith, who lived near him, and was foster-father to Miss Knox—one whom M'Naughton could never bribe, though most of the other servants had suffered themselves to be tampered with, and, when discovered, had been discharged. As soon as the coach came near the cabin, two of the accomplices, armed with guns, presented them at the postilion and coachman, which stopped the coach, while M'Naughton fired at the smith with a blunderbuss. Upon this the faithful smith, who luckily escaped the shot, presented his piece, which, unfortunately, missed fire, and gave M'Naughton and one of his comrades an opportunity to fire at the poor fellow, and both wounded him. Immediately upon this two shots were fired at the coach, one by M'Naughton himself, and another by one of his assistants ; and finding that the passengers had drawn up the windows he ran round and fired into the coach obliquely, with a gun loaded with five balls, all which entered the body of the unhappy Miss Knox, who was carried into the cabin, where she expired in about three hours.

The murderer and his accomplices fled ; but the country was soon raised in pursuit of them, and, amongst others, some of Sir James Caldwell's Light Horse, who were directed to search the house and offices of one Wenslow, a farmer, not far distant from the scene of action. But though some of the family knew he was concealed there they pretended ignorance ; so that M'Naughton might have escaped, had not the corporal, after they had searched every place, as they imagined, without success, and were going away, bethought himself of the following stratagem. Seeing a labourer digging potatoes in a piece of ground behind the stables, he said to his comrades in the fellow's hearing : " It is a great pity we cannot find this murderer ; it would be a good thing for the discoverer ; he would certainly get three hundred pounds." Upon which the fellow pointed to a hay-loft. The corporal immediately

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ran up the ladder and forced open the door ; upon which M'Naughton fired at him and missed him. By the flash of the pistol the corporal was directed where to fire his piece, which, happily, wounding him, he ran in and, seizing him, dragged him out, when they instantly tied him on a car, and conducted him to Lifford Jail. Here he remained in the closest confinement, entirely deserted by all his friends and acquaintances, as appeared on the day of his trial, which commenced on the 8th of December, 1761, when he was arraigned, with an accomplice, called Dunlap, before Baron Mountney, Mr Justice Scott and Counsellor Smith, who went down upon a special commission to try them.

M'Naughton was brought into court on a bier, rolled in a blanket, with a greasy woollen night-cap, the shirt in which he was taken being all bloody and dirty, and a long beard, which made a dreadful appearance. In that horrid condition he made a long speech, pointedly and sensibly, and complained in the most pathetic manner of the hard usage he had met with since his confinement. He and Dunlap were both found guilty, and, agreeable to the sentence, they were executed on Tuesday, the 15th of December, 1761, near Strabane, in the county of Tyrone.

M'Naughton was dressed in a white flannel waistcoat trimmed with black buttons and holes, a diaper night-cap tied with a black ribbon, white stockings, mourning buckles, and crepe tied on his arm. He desired the executioner to be speedy, and when the fellow pointed to the ladder he mounted with great spirit. The moment he was tied up he jumped from it with such vehemence that the rope snapped, and he fell to the ground, but without dislocating his neck, or doing himself much injury. When they had raised him on his legs again he soon recovered his senses. The executioner then borrowed the rope from Dunlap and fixed it round M'Naughton's neck ; he went up the ladder a second time and, tying the rope himself to the gallows, jumped from it again with the same force, and appeared dead in a minute.

Thus died the once universally admired M'Naughton in the thirty-eighth year of his age.

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THE JAIL FEVER

THIS malignant distemper was fatal and frequent in old Newgate and other county jails in different parts of England.

The assize held at Oxford in the year 1577, called the "Black Assize," was a dreadful instance of the deadly effects of the jail fever. The judges, jury, witnesses, nay, in fact every person, except the prisoners, women and children, in court were killed by a foul air, which at first was thought to have arisen out of the bowels of the earth; but that great philosopher, Lord Bacon, proved it to have come from the prisoners taken out of a noisome jail and brought into court to take their trials; and they alone, inhaling foul air, were not injured by it.

Baker's *Chronicle*, a work of the highest authenticity, thus speaks of the Black Assize:

"The Court were surprised with a pestilent savour, whether arising from the noisome smell of the prisoners, or from the damp of the ground, is uncertain; but all that were present, within forty hours died, except the prisoners, and the women and children; and the contagion went no farther. There died Robert Bell, Lord Chief Baron, Robert De Olie, Sir William Babington, the High Sheriff of Oxfordshire, some of the most eminent Lawyers, the Jurors, and three hundred others, more or less."

In the year 1730 the Lord Chief Baron Pengelly, with several of his officers and servants; Sir James Sheppard, Serjeant-at-Law; John Pigot, Esq., High Sheriff for Somersetshire, died at Blandford, on the Western Circuit of the Lent Assize, from the infected stench brought with the prisoners from Ilchester Jail to their trials at Taunton, in which town the infection afterwards spread and carried off some hundred persons.

In 1754 and 1755 this distemper prevailed in Newgate to a degree which carried off more than one-fifth of the prisoners.

Others attributed the cause of this sudden mortality at Oxford to witchcraft, the people in those times being very superstitious. In Webster's *Display of Witchcraft* we find the following account of the Black Assize:—

"The 4th and 5th days of July, 1559, were holden the assizes at Oxford, where was arraigned and condemned, one Rowland Jenkes, for his seditious tongue, at which time there arose such a damp, that almost all were smothered. Very few escaped that were not taken at that instant. The jurors died presently—shortly after died Sir Robert Bell, Lord Chief Baron, Sir Robert De Olie, Sir Wm. Babington, Mr Weneman, Mr De Olie, High Sheriff, Mr Davers, Mr Harcourt, Mr Kirle, Mr Phetep lace, Mr Greenwood, Mr

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Foster, Serjeant Baram, Mr Stevens, etc. There died in Oxford 300 persons, and sickened there, but died in other places, 200 and odd, from the 6th of July to the 12th of August, after which day died not one of that sickness, for one of them infected not another, nor any one woman or child died thereof. This is the punctual relation, according to our English annals, which relate nothing of what should be the cause of the arising of such a damp. Just at the conjuncture of time when Jenkes was condemned, there being none before, and so it could not be a prison infection; for that would have manifested itself by smell, or operating sooner. But to take away all scruple, and to assign the true cause, it was thus: It fortuned that a manuscript fell into my hands, collected by an ancient gentleman of York, who was a great observer and gatherer of strange things and facts, who lived about the time of this accident happening at Oxford, wherein it is related thus: 'That Rowland Jenkes, being imprisoned for treasonable words, spoken against the queen, and being a popish recusant, had, notwithstanding, during the time of his restraint, liberty some time to walk abroad with a keeper; and that one day he came to an apothecary, and showed him a receipt which he desired him to make up; but the apothecary, upon view of it, told him, that it was a strong and dangerous receipt, and required some time to prepare it; but also asked him to what use he would apply it. He answered, to kill the rats, that, since his imprisonment, spoiled his books; so being satisfied, he promised to make it ready. After a certain time he cometh to know if it were ready; but the apothecary said, the ingredients were so hard to procure, that he had not done it, and so gave him the receipt again, of which he had taken a copy, which mine author had there precisely written down, but did seem so horribly poisonous, that I cut it forth, lest it might fall into the hands of wicked persons. But after, it seems, he had it prepared, and, against the day of his trial, had made a wick of it (for so is the word, that is, so fitted, that like a candle it might be fired) which, as soon as ever he was condemned, he lighted, having provided himself a tinder-box, and steel to strike fire. And whosoever should know the ingredients of that wick, or candle, and the manner of the composition, will easily be persuaded of the virulency and venomous effect of it.'"

Sir Stephen Theodore Jansen, one of the most philanthropic magistrates of the City of London, took great interest on behalf of the regulation of prisons, and the amelioration of the miseries of unfortunate prisoners.

When Chamberlain of London, in the year 1767, he published a pamphlet addressed to the Lord Mayor, in the cause of jail fevers. He was Sheriff of London in the year 1750, when the putrid fever, the consequence of filth and foul air, made such dreadful havoc in the Old Bailey Sessions.

Sir Theodore strongly recommended a plan similar to that of York Castle, which, he said, covered no less than two acres and a rood of ground, with great plenty of water and other conveniences.

He warmly remonstrated against the spot then proposed for the rebuilding of Newgate. He said it did not occupy more than three-quarters of an acre, and that the number of convicts in that prison was more than treble those of York Castle.

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In the year 1772 the assizes for the Summer Circuit were adjourned for Hampshire from the 17th of July to the 2nd of September, on account of an infectious distemper in Winchester Jail.

An expositor on this subject, who wrote under the signature of "A Philanthropist," during that rage of the jail fever, says :

"The public may be rather concerned than surprised, at the deplorable consequences of gaol distempers, and at the fatal instances of their contagion. Several judges, sheriffs, magistrates, juries, and whole courts of judicature, have been infected by those contagious diseases, which caused the loss of many valuable lives, particularly at the Old Bailey, and formerly at the assizes at Oxford, all owing to the horrid neglect of gaolers, and even of the sheriffs and magistrates, whose office it is to compel the gaolers, to the most rigorous repeated orders and attention to their duty, without the least indulgence or remission ; as the gaolers are (some excepted) frequently low bred, mercenary and oppressive barbarous fellows, who think of nothing but enriching themselves by the most cruel extortion ; and who have less regard for the life of a poor prisoner than for the life of a brute.

"The felons of this kingdom lie worse than dogs or swine, and are kept much more uncleanly than those animals are in kennels and sties, according to all accounts from clergymen, who are obliged to go to the gaols. From them I have been assured, that the stench and nastiness are so nauseous, that the very atmosphere is pestiferous, and that no persons enter therein, without the risque of their health or lives, which prevents even many clergymen and physicians from going there, and assisting their sick and dying fellow-creatures ; so that they live and die like brutes, even worse than many beasts, to the disgrace of human nature.

"Every person endowed with the least principle of real humanity, and of true policy, must be affected with such barbarities, neglects, uncleanness, and dangers. A contagion of that kind may spread over a whole country and kingdom ; the greatest precaution ought therefore to be taken in time.

"The gaolers ought to be forced to have all the rooms sprinkled and fumigated with vinegar every day : as should all the felons, before their appearance in a court of judicature ; for some hundred prisoners, particularly criminals, are early killed by a sort of pestilence and vermin among them, occasioned by filth and nastiness, and a corrupted air.

"All hospitals, prisons, and workhouses, should have bathing-places, for the sake of cleanliness and health, as in Asia."

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